volving death or violence in a way that is strange, frightening, or unpleasant ▪ a *macabre* story of murder and madness ▪ Police discovered a *macabre* scene inside the house.

mac•ad•am /məˈkædəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a road surface made with a dark material that contains small broken stones

mac•a•ro•ni /ˌmækəˈrounі/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of pasta in the shape of small curved tubes ▪ ***(US) macaroni and cheese*** = ***(Brit) macaroni cheese*** [=a dish of macaroni in a cheese sauce] — see picture at PASTA

mac•a•roon /ˌmækəˈruːn/ *noun, pl* **-roons** [*count*] : a cookie made of egg, sugar, and almonds or coconut

ma•caw /məˈkɑː/ *noun, pl* **-caws** [*count*] : a bird of South and Central America that has a long tail and bright colorful feathers

[1]mace /ˈmeɪs/ *noun, pl* **mac•es** [*count*]
1 : a heavy club with many sharp points that was used as a weapon in the Middle Ages
2 : a decorated pole carried by an official in special ceremonies as a symbol of authority
– compare [2]MACE

[2]mace *noun* [*noncount*] : a spice made from the dried covering of a type of seed (called a nutmeg) — compare [1]MACE

[3]mace *verb* **mac•es**; **maced**; **mac•ing** [+ *obj*] : to spray (a person) with Mace ▪ She *maced* the man who attacked her.

Mace /ˈmeɪs/ *trademark* — used for a liquid that stings the eyes and skin and that is used as a spray to defend against an attacker

Mach /ˈmɑːk, *Brit* ˈmæk/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* — used to indicate the high speed of something (such as an airplane) by comparing it to the speed of sound ▪ a jet flying at *Mach* 2 [=twice the speed of sound]

ma•chete /məˈʃɛti/ *noun, pl* **-chet•es** [*count*] : a large, heavy knife that is used for cutting plants and as a weapon

Ma•chi•a•vel•lian /ˌmækijəˈvɛlijən/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : using clever lies and tricks in order to get or achieve something : clever and dishonest ▪ He relied on *Machiavellian* [=*devious*] tactics to get elected. ▪ a *Machiavellian* battle for control of the company
– **Machiavellian** *noun, pl* **-lians** [*count*] ▪ a political *Machiavellian*

mach•i•na•tions /ˌmækəˈneɪʃənz/ *noun* [*plural*] *formal* + *usually disapproving* : deceptive actions or methods that are used to get or achieve something ▪ His plans were defeated by the *machinations* of his enemies.

[1]ma•chine /məˈʃiːn/ *noun, pl* **-chines** [*count*]
1 : a piece of equipment with moving parts that does work when it is given power from electricity, gasoline, etc. ▪ Shovels are tools; bulldozers are *machines*. ▪ Do you know how to operate/use/run this *machine*? ▪ The *machine* is working/running properly. ▪ The *machine* is broken. ▪ *machine*-sorted mail [=mail that is sorted by using a machine] ▪ a fax/copy/exercise *machine* ▪ a coffee/soda/ice/cash *machine* [=a machine from which you can get coffee/soda/ice/cash] — often used to refer informally to a specific type of machine ▪ Are there any new messages on the *machine*? [=on the answering machine] ▪ I have a load of laundry in the *machine*. [=in the washing machine] ▪ I'm having software problems on my *machine*. [=computer] — see also ANSWERING MACHINE, FLYING MACHINE, ROWING MACHINE, SEWING MACHINE, SLOT MACHINE, TIME MACHINE, VENDING MACHINE, VOTING MACHINE, WASHING MACHINE
2 *informal* : a vehicle (such as a car or motorcycle) ▪ He was bragging about his new *machine*.
3 a : a person or group that does something efficiently, quickly, or repeatedly like a machine ▪ The coach turned the team into a scoring *machine*. ▪ My younger brother is an eating *machine*. ▪ a publicity *machine* **b** : a powerful and well-organized group ▪ a politician who dared to challenge the local party *machine* ▪ a powerful war *machine* ▪ Their army is a ***well-oiled machine***.
by machine : with a machine ▪ The mail used to be sorted by hand but is sorted now *by machine*.
– **ma•chine•like** /məˈʃiːnˌlaɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ He worked with *machinelike* efficiency.

[2]machine *verb* **-chines**; **-chined**; **-chin•ing** [+ *obj*] : to shape (something) by using a machine ▪ The parts of the engine have been precisely *machined*.

machine gun *noun, pl* ~ **guns** [*count*] : a gun that is able to shoot many bullets very quickly one after the other ▪ They heard the sound of *machine-gun* fire. — see picture at GUN
– **machine–gun** *verb* **-guns**; **-gunned**; **-gun•ning** [+ *obj*] ▪ The soldiers were *machine-gunned* from the air.
– **machine gunner** *noun, pl* ~ **-ners** [*count*]

ma•chine–gun /məˈʃiːnˌgʌn/ *adj, always used before a noun, informal* : very quick ▪ a comedian with a *machine-gun* [=*rapid-fire*] delivery

machine–readable *adj* : in a form that can be used and understood by a computer ▪ *machine-readable* data

ma•chin•ery /məˈʃiːnəri/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : machines of a particular kind or machines in general ▪ Some of the mill's *machinery* was damaged in the fire. ▪ a piece of farm *machinery*
2 : the working parts of a machine ▪ Something was clogging the *machinery*.
3 : an organization or system by which something is done ▪ the *machinery* of government ▪ The United Nations has set up *machinery* for mediation.

machine shop *noun, pl* ~ **shops** [*count*] : a place where metal parts are made and put together

machine tool *noun, pl* ~ **tools** [*count*] : a tool (such as a drill) that is powered by electricity and designed for shaping metal or wood

ma•chin•ist /məˈʃiːnɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who makes, repairs, or operates machines ▪ He is a *machinist* at the factory.

ma•chis•mo /mɑˈʧiːzmoʊ, *Brit* məˈʧɪzməʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *often disapproving* : an attitude, quality, or way of behaving that agrees with traditional ideas about men being very strong and aggressive ▪ athletes displaying their *machismo* ▪ a culture of *machismo*

ma•cho /ˈmɑːʧoʊ, *Brit* ˈmæʧəʊ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *often disapproving* : having or showing qualities (such as very noticeable strength and aggression) that agree with traditional ideas about what men are like : manly or masculine in a very noticeable or exaggerated way ▪ He thinks he's a real *macho* man. [=a very masculine man] ▪ the *macho* world of football

mack *variant spelling of* MAC

mack•er•el /ˈmækərəl/ *noun, pl* **-el** *or* **-els** [*count, noncount*] : a large fish that lives in the northern Atlantic Ocean and is often eaten as food — see color picture on page C8

mack•in•tosh /ˈmækənˌtɑːʃ/ *noun, pl* **-tosh•es** [*count*] *Brit, old-fashioned* : RAINCOAT — called also *mac*

mac•ra•mé /ˈmækrəˌmeɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the art of tying knots in string to make decorative things ▪ Her hobbies include knitting and *macramé*.; *also* : things made in this way ▪ her collection of *macramé*

mac•ro /ˈmækroʊ/ *noun, pl* **-ros** [*count*] *computers* : a set of instructions that causes a computer to perform a series of tasks

mac•ro- /ˈmækroʊ/ *combining form* : large ▪ *macro*economics

mac•ro•bi•o•tic /ˌmækroʊbaɪˈɑːtɪk/ *adj* : consisting of mainly whole grains and vegetables ▪ a *macrobiotic* diet

mac•ro•cosm /ˈmækrəˌkɑːzəm/ *noun* [*singular*] : a large system (such as the entire universe) that contains many smaller systems — compare MICROCOSM

mac•ro•eco•nom•ics /ˌmækroʊˌɛkəˈnɑːmɪks, ˌmækroʊˌiːkəˈnɑːmɪks/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the study of the large economic systems of a country or region — compare MICROECONOMICS
– **mac•ro•eco•nom•ic** /ˌmækroʊˌɛkəˈnɑːmɪk, ˌmækroʊˌiːkəˈnɑːmɪk/ *adj*

mad /ˈmæd/ *adj* **mad•der**; **mad•dest**
1 *not used before a noun, chiefly US, informal* : very angry ▪ If you keep teasing that dog, you'll make/get him *mad*. ▪ She's *mad* at me. = (*less commonly*) She's *mad* with me. ▪ What are you so *mad* about? ▪ That guy makes me so *mad*! ▪ She was *mad* at me for being late. = She was *mad* that I was late. = She was *mad* about my being late. ▪ She was ***hopping mad***. [=extremely angry] — see also *fighting mad* at [1]FIGHT
2 a : having or showing severe mental illness : INSANE ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) The man in the park was clearly *mad*. ▪ a movie about a ***mad scientist*** ▪ He was ***stark raving mad***. [=completely insane] = (*Brit*) He was ***barking mad***. **b** : unable to think in a clear or sensible way ▪ He was *mad* [=*insane*] with jealousy/anger. ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) They must have been *mad* [=*crazy*] to buy that house. ▪ a power-*mad* prosecutor **c** : very foolish ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) He made a *mad* decision to drive home in the storm.
3 *chiefly Brit, informal* : liking someone or something very much : very fond of or enthusiastic about someone or something ▪ She's *mad* for a cute boy in her class. ▪ He's ***mad keen*** on sailing. — often + *about* ▪ She's *mad* [=*wild*] *about* danc-

ing. ▪ He's *mad* [=*crazy*] *about* her.
4 *always used before a noun* : wild and uncontrolled ▪ There was a *mad* [=*frantic*] rush when the store opened. ▪ a *mad* scramble
drive (someone) mad **1** : to cause (someone) to become mentally ill ▪ Years alone in the jungle had *driven* him *mad*. **2** : to annoy or bother (someone) very much. ▪ That noise is *driving* me *mad*!
go mad **1** : to become mentally ill ▪ Sometimes I think the whole world has *gone mad*! ▪ He had *gone mad* after years alone in the jungle. **2** : to act in a way that is out of control : to act wildly ▪ The crowd *went mad* [=*went crazy*] when the team won the championship.
like mad *informal* **1** : with a lot of energy and speed ▪ We've been working *like mad* [=*like crazy*] to get done on time. **2** : very quickly ▪ Cars were selling *like mad*. ▪ He's been spending money *like mad*. **3** : very much ▪ She started shivering *like mad*.
mad as a hatter see HATTER

mad•am /'mædəm/ *noun, pl* **-ams** [*count*]
1 *pl* ***mes•dames*** /meɪ'dɑ:m, meɪ'dæm/ *formal* — used to politely speak to a woman who you do not know ▪ Would *madam* care for a drink? = Would you care for a drink, *madam*?
2 ***Madam*** — used at the start of a formal letter to a woman whose name you do not know ▪ Dear *Madam* ▪ Dear Sir or *Madam*
3 ***Madam*** — used when you are speaking to a woman who has a high rank or position ▪ *Madam* President ▪ *Madam* Ambassador
4 : a woman who is in charge of a brothel
5 *Brit, informal* + *disapproving* : a girl who expects other people to do things for her ▪ She was a bossy little *madam*.

ma•dame /mə'dæm, mə'dɑ:m/ *noun, pl* **mes•dames** /meɪ'dɑ:m, meɪ'dæm/ [*count*] — used like *Mrs.* as a title for a married Frenchwoman

mad•cap /'mæd,kæp/ *adj, usually used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very foolish or silly ▪ a *madcap* scheme ▪ a *madcap* [=*zany*] movie about a car race around the world ▪ *madcap* antics

mad cow disease *noun* [*noncount*] : a fatal disease that affects the brain and nervous system of cattle

mad•den /'mædn̩/ *verb* **-dens**; **-dened**; **-den•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) angry — often used as *(be) maddened* ▪ The general *was maddened* by the delays.

maddening *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very annoying ▪ He has a *maddening* habit of interrupting other people. ▪ She shows a *maddening* inability to control her children.
– **mad•den•ing•ly** /'mædn̩ɪŋli/ *adv* ▪ a *maddeningly* difficult problem ▪ *maddeningly* slow service

[1]made *past tense and past participle of* [1]MAKE

[2]made /'meɪd/ *adj*
1 *not used before a noun* **a** — used to say that someone has the right qualities *to be* or *to do* something ▪ He was *made to be* an actor. = He was *made to act*. **b** — used to say that something has the right qualities *for* or *to do* something ▪ She has a body *made for* running. ▪ The furniture was *made to last*. [=the furniture will last a long time]
2 : built, formed, or shaped in a specified way ▪ newly *made* tissue cells — often used in combination ▪ American-*made* cars ▪ machine-*made* rugs — see also HANDMADE, HOMEMADE, MAN-MADE, TAILOR-MADE
3 *informal* : certain of success ▪ a ***made man*** ▪ If this works, we'll all be ***made for life***! [=we will have enough money to live well for the rest of our lives]
have it made *informal* : to be in a very good position or situation ▪ My brother *has it made* with a good job, a beautiful wife, and a big house with a pool. ▪ (*US*) She had to work hard for many years to achieve success, but now she ***has it made in the shade***.
made for each other *informal* : perfectly suited to each other ▪ I'm not surprised that they have such a happy marriage. I always knew that they were *made for each other*.
made of money see MONEY
what you're made of ✧ If people want to find out *what you're made of*, they want to see if you have the necessary courage, skill, etc., to succeed. ▪ Let's give him a chance and find out *what he's made of*.
– see also READY-MADE, SELF-MADE, UNMADE

ma•de•moi•selle /ˌmædmwə'zɛl/ *noun, pl* **ma•de•moi•selles** /ˌmædmwə'zɛlz/ *or* **mes•de•moi•selles** /ˌmeɪdmwə'zɛl/ [*count*] — used like *Miss* as a title for a Frenchwoman who is not married

made–to–measure *adj* : made to fit a particular person or thing ▪ a *made-to-measure* [=*custom-made*] suit ▪ *made-to-measure* curtains

made–to–order *adj* : made to fit the needs or requirements of a particular person ▪ *made-to-order* [=*custom-made*] shoes/furniture ▪ a *made-to-order* meal

made–up /'meɪd'ʌp/ *adj*
1 : created from the imagination : not true or real ▪ a *made-up* [=*fictitious*] story/name
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : wearing makeup ▪ *made-up* eyelids ▪ She was nicely *made-up*.

mad•house /'mæd,haʊs/ *noun, pl* **-hous•es** [*count*]
1 *old-fashioned* + *offensive* : a hospital for people who are mentally ill
2 *informal* : a place where there is a lot of excitement or confusion ▪ The stadium was a *madhouse* when the team won the championship.

mad•ly /'mædli/ *adv*
1 : to an extreme or excessive degree ▪ He told her that he loved her *madly*. ▪ a *madly* ambitious businessman ▪ She fell ***madly in love*** with him.
2 : in a mad or insane way ▪ He pulled out a knife and started waving it around *madly*. [=*wildly*] ▪ grinning *madly*

mad•man /'mæd,mæn/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-,mɛn/ [*count*]
1 : a man who has severe mental illness : an insane man ▪ a celebrity being stalked by a *madman*
2 *informal* : a man who acts in a wild and uncontrolled way ▪ He is a *madman* out on the ski slopes. [=he is an extremely daring or reckless skier] ▪ He drives ***like a madman***. [=he drives very recklessly]

mad•ness /'mædnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a state of severe mental illness ▪ The king's *madness* [=*insanity*] was well-known. ▪ He suffered a series of tragedies that nearly drove him to *madness*.
2 : behavior or thinking that is very foolish or dangerous ▪ Her friends told her the idea was pure/sheer *madness*, but she went through with it anyway. ▪ It was the height of *madness* for him to drive at such high speeds! — see also *(a) method in/to your madness* at METHOD

Ma•don•na /mə'dɑ:nə/ *noun, pl* **-nas**
1 ***the Madonna*** : the Virgin Mary : the mother of Jesus Christ
2 [*count*] : a painting or statue of the Virgin Mary

mad•ri•gal /'mædrɪgəl/ *noun, pl* **-gals** [*count*] : a type of song for several singers without instruments that was popular in the 16th and 17th centuries

mad•wom•an /'mæd,wʊmən/ *noun, pl* **-wom•en** /-,wɪmən/ [*count*]
1 : a woman who has severe mental illness : an insane woman ▪ a story about a *madwoman* locked up by her husband
2 *informal* : a woman who acts in a wild and uncontrolled way ▪ She is a *madwoman* on the dance floor. ▪ She drives ***like a madwoman***. [=she drives recklessly]

mael•strom /'meɪlstrəm/ *noun, pl* **-stroms** [*count*] *literary*
1 : a situation in which there are a lot of confused activities, emotions, etc. ▪ She was caught in a *maelstrom* of emotions. ▪ the *maelstrom* of war ▪ a *maelstrom* of activity
2 : a dangerous area of water that moves very fast in a circle : WHIRLPOOL ▪ The ship was drawn into the *maelstrom*.

mae•stro /'maɪstroʊ/ *noun, pl* **mae•stros** *also* **mae•stri** /'maɪ,stri:/ [*count*] : a man who is an expert at writing, conducting, or teaching music — often used as part of a title ▪ The orchestra played under *Maestro* Bernstein. ▪ Which tempo do you prefer, *Maestro*?

Ma•fia /'mɑ:fijə, *Brit* 'mæfiə/ *noun, pl* **-fias**
1 ***the Mafia*** **a** : a secret criminal organization in Italy **b** : a similar criminal organization in the U.S. ▪ a member of *the Mafia* — often used as *Mafia* before another noun ▪ a politician accused of having *Mafia* connections
2 *or* ***mafia*** [*count*] : a group of closely connected people who have great power or influence in a particular field or business ▪ He's an important figure in the television *mafia*.

ma•fi•o•so /ˌmɑ:fi'oʊsoʊ, *Brit* ˌmæfi'əʊsəʊ/ *noun, pl* **-si** /-si/ [*count*] : a member of the Mafia

mag•a•zine /'mægə,zi:n, ˌmægə'zi:n/ *noun, pl* **-zines** [*count*]
1 : a type of thin book with a paper cover that contains stories, essays, pictures, etc., and that is usually published every week or month ▪ a literary/fashion *magazine* ▪ a *magazine* rack ▪ She subscribes to several gardening *magazines*.

2 : a radio or television program that discusses different topics
3 : a part of a gun that holds bullets
4 : a building or room where military supplies are stored

ma•gen•ta /mə'ʤɛntə/ *noun, pl* **-tas** [*count, noncount*] : a bright, deep purplish-red color — see color picture on page C3
– **magenta** *adj*

mag•got /'mægət/ *noun, pl* **-gots** [*count*] : an insect that looks like a small worm and that is a young form of a fly ▪ The rotten meat was infested with *maggots*.
– **mag•goty** /'mægəti/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ rotten *maggoty* meat

Ma•gi /'meɪˌʤaɪ/ *noun*
the Magi : the three wise men in the Bible who come from the East with gifts for the baby Jesus

[1]mag•ic /'mæʤɪk/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a power that allows people (such as witches and wizards) to do impossible things by saying special words or performing special actions ▪ perform/work (feats of) *magic* ▪ children who believe in *magic* — see also BLACK MAGIC
2 : tricks that seem to be impossible and that are done by a performer to entertain people ▪ a book that explains how to do *magic*
3 : special power, influence, or skill ▪ Some doubted the company could ever get back its former *magic*. [=could ever succeed again as it had succeeded before] ▪ Both pitchers, though they are older, haven't lost their *magic*.
4 : a very pleasant, attractive, or exciting quality ▪ the *magic* of their singing ▪ They wanted to get the old *magic* back into their marriage.
by magic : by the power of magic ▪ a mop that gets rid of dirt as if *by magic*
like magic *informal* : in a very fast and impressive way ▪ Shapes changed *like magic* on the computer screen. ▪ a mop that works *like magic* [=that works extremely quickly or well]
work your magic **1** : to do something very well ▪ the kitchen where a great cook *works her magic* **2** : to have a desired good effect ▪ It may take a few hours for the medication to *work its magic*.

[2]magic *adj*
1 : having the power to make impossible things happen : having supernatural power ▪ a *magic* potion/spell that makes you able to fly ▪ a *magic* charm
2 : involving the skill of doing tricks that seem to be impossible ▪ *magic* tricks ▪ a *magic* show/act
3 : capable of producing good results very easily ▪ There is no *magic* solution to these problems. ▪ He claims to know the ***magic formula*** for financial success. [=he claims to know a simple and sure way to achieve financial success] ▪ She has a ***magic touch*** with animals. [=she is able to calm or control animals with unusual ease]
4 [*more ~; most ~*] : very pleasant or exciting ▪ It was a *magic* moment when they met. ▪ They spent a *magic* [=*magical*] evening together.

mag•i•cal /'mæʤɪkəl/ *adj*
1 : [2]MAGIC 1 ▪ a *magical* potion ▪ *magical* powers
2 [*more ~; most ~*] : very pleasant or exciting ▪ We had a *magical* time.
– **mag•i•cal•ly** /'mæʤɪkli/ *adv* ▪ The magician made the car *magically* appear. ▪ I can't *magically* make your problems go away.

magic bullet *noun, pl* **~ -lets** [*count*]
1 : a drug or treatment that cures a disease quickly and easily without producing bad effects
2 : something that solves a difficult problem easily ▪ There is no *magic bullet* to fix our educational system.

magic carpet *noun, pl* **~ -pets** [*count*] *in stories* : a carpet that can carry a person through the air

ma•gi•cian /mə'ʤɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-cians** [*count*]
1 : a person who has the power to make impossible things happen : SORCERER
2 : a performer who does tricks that seem to be impossible ▪ The *magician* pulled a rabbit out of a hat.
3 : a person who has amazing skills ▪ She is a *magician* on the basketball court.

magic lantern *noun, pl* **~ -terns** [*count*] : a machine that was used in the past to show pictures on a wall or screen

Magic Marker *trademark* — used for a felt-tip pen

magic wand *noun, pl* **~ wands** [*count*] : a stick that is used to make magic things happen ▪ The magician waved his *magic wand* and pulled a rabbit out of the hat. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The new law is not a *magic wand* that will solve all our problems.

mag•is•te•ri•al /ˌmæʤə'stirijəl/ *adj*
1 [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : showing impressive knowledge about a subject ▪ His book is a *magisterial* [=*authoritative*] study of the artist.
2 [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : having the confident quality of someone who expects to be obeyed by other people ▪ He spoke with a *magisterial* tone.
3 : of or relating to a magistrate ▪ *magisterial* duties
– **mag•is•te•ri•al•ly** /ˌmæʤə'stirijəli/ *adv*

mag•is•trate /'mæʤəˌstreɪt/ *noun, pl* **-trates** [*count*] : a local official who has some of the powers of a judge

mag•ma /'mægmə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : hot liquid rock below the surface of the Earth

mag•na cum lau•de /'mɑ:gnəkʊm'laʊdə/ *adv, formal* : with great honor — used in the U.S. to indicate that a student has graduated from a college or university at the second highest of three special levels of achievement ▪ He graduated *magna cum laude*. — compare CUM LAUDE, SUMMA CUM LAUDE

mag•nan•i•mous /mæg'nænəməs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : having or showing a generous and kind nature ▪ The team was *magnanimous* in victory. [=the team treated its defeated opponents in a respectful and generous way] ▪ She was too *magnanimous* to resent all the things others had said to her. ▪ a *magnanimous* gesture
– **mag•na•nim•i•ty** /ˌmægnə'nɪməti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He had the *magnanimity* to forgive her for lying about him. ▪ The team showed *magnanimity* in victory. – **mag•nan•i•mous•ly** *adv*

mag•nate /'mægˌneɪt/ *noun, pl* **-nates** [*count*] : a person who has great wealth and power in a particular business or industry ▪ a railroad *magnate*

magnesia see MILK OF MAGNESIA

mag•ne•sium /mæg'ni:zijəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a silver-white metallic element that produces a very bright white light when it burns

mag•net /'mægnət/ *noun, pl* **-nets** [*count*]
1 : a piece of material (such as iron or steel) that is able to attract certain metals ▪ (*US*) a ***refrigerator magnet*** [=a small object with a magnet attached to it that can stick to a refrigerator or other metal surface]
2 : something or someone that attracts people or things — often + *for* ▪ The town is a *magnet for* tourists in the summer months. ▪ a controversial politician who has become a *magnet for* criticism [=who attracts a great deal of criticism]

mag•net•ic /mæg'nɛtɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : of or relating to a magnet or magnetism ▪ *magnetic* materials ▪ a strong/powerful *magnetic* field
2 : having great power to attract and hold the interest of other people ▪ a *magnetic* personality ▪ a *magnetic* performer
– **mag•net•i•cal•ly** /mæg'nɛtɪkli/ *adv* ▪ a *magnetically* charged particle ▪ a *magnetically* attractive personality

magnetic compass *noun, pl* **~ -pass•es** [*count*] : COMPASS 1

magnetic disk *noun, pl* **~ disks** [*count*] : DISC 2

magnetic north *noun* [*noncount*] : the direction or area to the north toward which the needle of a compass points — compare TRUE NORTH

magnetic pole *noun, pl* **~ poles** [*count*]
1 : an area near either the North or South Pole of the Earth toward which the needle of a compass points
2 : either one of the two ends of a magnet

magnetic resonance im•ag•ing /-'ɪmɪʤɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a method used to produce images of the inside of a person's body by means of a strong magnetic field — called also *MRI*

magnetic tape *noun* [*noncount*] : a thin plastic tape that is coated with magnetic material on which information (such as sound or television images) may be stored

mag•ne•tism /'mægnəˌtɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the property of attracting certain metals : the attracting property of a magnet
2 : a quality that makes someone able to attract and hold the interest of other people ▪ Much of his success as a politician can be attributed to his personal *magnetism*. — see also *animal magnetism* at [2]ANIMAL

mag•ne•tize *also Brit* **mag•ne•tise** /'mægnəˌtaɪz/ *verb* **-tiz•es**; **-tized**; **-tiz•ing**

1 : to cause (something) to become magnetic ▪ *magnetize* a metal bar ▪ a highly *magnetized* particle
2 : to attract and hold the interest of (someone) ▪ Her performance *magnetized* the audience.
– **mag·ne·tiz·able** *also Brit* **mag·ne·tis·able** /ˈmægnəˌtaɪzəbəl/ *adj* – **mag·ne·ti·za·tion** *also Brit* **mag·ne·ti·sa·tion** /ˌmægnətəˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌmægnəˌtaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

magnet school *noun, pl* ~ **schools** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a school that has courses in special subjects (such as the arts or technology) and is designed to attract students from all parts of a community

mag·ni·fi·ca·tion /ˌmægnəfəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*noncount*] : the act of making something look larger than it is : the act of magnifying something ▪ *magnification* of an image
2 : the larger appearance of an object when it is seen through a microscope, telescope, etc. [*noncount*] We used a microscope to examine the cells under *magnification*. [*count*] At/Under higher *magnifications* the differences between the cells become clear. ▪ The telescope has a *magnification* of 30X. [=objects appear to be 30 times larger when viewed through the telescope]

mag·nif·i·cent /mægˈnɪfəsənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very beautiful or impressive : very great ▪ the *magnificent* cathedrals of Europe ▪ He gave a *magnificent* performance. ▪ The view was *magnificent*.
– **mag·nif·i·cence** /mægˈnɪfəsəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ We were awed by the splendor and *magnificence* of the palace.
– **mag·nif·i·cent·ly** *adv* ▪ a *magnificently* decorated palace ▪ He performed *magnificently*.

mag·ni·fy /ˈmægnəˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 a : to make (something) greater ▪ The sound was *magnified* by the calm air. ▪ Their health problems have been *magnified* [=*worsened*] by unsanitary living conditions. ▪ Her successful handling of the crisis has *magnified* [=*increased, improved*] her chances to win reelection. **b** : to make (something) seem greater or more important than it is ▪ His failures have been *magnified* by the success of his friends. ▪ I don't want to *magnify* the importance of these problems.
2 : to make (something) appear larger ▪ The lens *magnified* the image 100 times. ▪ a *magnified* view of the image
– **mag·ni·fi·er** /ˈmægnəˌfajɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

magnifying glass *noun, pl* ~ **glasses** [*count*] : a specially shaped piece of glass that is attached to a handle and is used to make an object look larger than it is ▪ The jeweler examined the diamond with a *magnifying glass*.

mag·ni·tude /ˈmægnəˌtu:d, *Brit* ˈmægnəˌtju:d/ *noun*
1 [*noncount*] : the size, extent, or importance of something ▪ The country's small army would be crushed in a war of such *magnitude*. [=in such a large war] ▪ At this point no one really knows the true/real *magnitude* [=*scale*] of the problem.
2 [*count, noncount*] *technical* **a** : a number that shows the brightness of a star **b** : a number that shows the power of an earthquake ▪ a *magnitude* 6.7 earthquake = an earthquake of *magnitude* 6.7

mag·no·lia /mægˈnoʊljə/ *noun, pl* **-lias** [*count*] : a tree or tall bush that has white, pink, yellow, or purple flowers

mag·num opus /ˈmægnəmˈoʊpəs/ *noun* [*singular*] : a great work : the greatest achievement of an artist or writer ▪ His last novel was his *magnum opus*.

mag·pie /ˈmægˌpaɪ/ *noun, pl* **-pies** [*count*]
1 : a noisy black-and-white bird
2 *chiefly Brit, informal* : a person who collects and keeps different things

ma·ha·ra·ja *or* **ma·ha·ra·jah** /ˌmɑ:həˈrɑ:ʤə/ *noun, pl* **-jas** *or* **-jahs** [*count*] : a Hindu prince

ma·ha·ra·ni *or* **ma·ha·ra·nee** /ˌmɑ:həˈrɑ:ni/ *noun, pl* **-nis** *or* **-nees** [*count*]
1 : the wife of a maharaja
2 : a Hindu princess

ma·hat·ma /məˈhɑ:tmə, *Brit* məˈhætmə/ *noun, pl* **-mas** [*count*] : a person who is respected for being good, wise, and holy — used as a title of honor by Hindus ▪ *Mahatma* Gandhi

mah–jongg *or* **mah·jong** /ˌmɑ:ˈʒɑ:ŋ, ˌmɑ:ˈʤɑ:ŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a Chinese game that four people play using small pieces of wood with symbols on them

ma·hog·a·ny /məˈhɑ:gəni/ *noun, pl* **-nies**
1 [*noncount*] : a strong reddish-brown wood that is used especially for making furniture and that comes from several tropical trees; *also* [*count*] : a tree that produces this wood
2 [*noncount*] : a reddish-brown color — see color picture on page C3
– **mahogany** *adj*

maid /ˈmeɪd/ *noun, pl* **maids** [*count*]
1 : a female servant ▪ a lady's *maid*; *especially* : a woman or girl who does cleaning work in a house or hotel ▪ She hired a *maid* to do the cleaning. ▪ a hotel *maid*
2 *old-fashioned* + *literary* : a girl or woman who is not married : MAIDEN ▪ a young *maid* — see also OLD MAID

[1]maid·en /ˈmeɪdn̩/ *noun, pl* **-ens** [*count*] *old-fashioned* + *literary* : a young girl or woman who is not married ▪ a story about a courageous knight who rescues a fair *maiden* ▪ a *maiden* in distress — see also HANDMAIDEN

[2]maiden *adj, always used before a noun*
1 *of a woman, old-fashioned* : not married ▪ my ***maiden aunt***
2 : coming before all others : first or earliest ▪ the ship's *maiden* voyage ▪ the *maiden* issue of a new magazine ▪ a politician giving his *maiden* speech in the Senate

maid·en·hair /ˈmeɪdn̩ˌheɚ/ *noun* [*count, noncount*] : a type of fern that has thin stems and delicate leaves — called also *maidenhair fern*

maid·en·head /ˈmeɪdn̩ˌhɛd/ *noun, pl* **-heads** *old-fashioned*
1 [*noncount*] *of a woman* : the state of being a virgin
2 [*count*] : HYMEN

maiden name *noun, pl* ~ **names** [*count*] : a woman's family name before she is married ▪ After she divorced, she took back her *maiden name*.

maid of honor (*US*) *or Brit* **maid of honour** *noun, pl* **maids of honor** [*count*] *chiefly US* : an unmarried woman who is the main bridesmaid at a wedding ▪ She asked her sister to be her *maid of honor*. — compare MATRON OF HONOR

maid·ser·vant /ˈmeɪdˌsɚvənt/ *noun, pl* **-vants** *old-fashioned* : a female servant ▪ menservants and *maidservants*

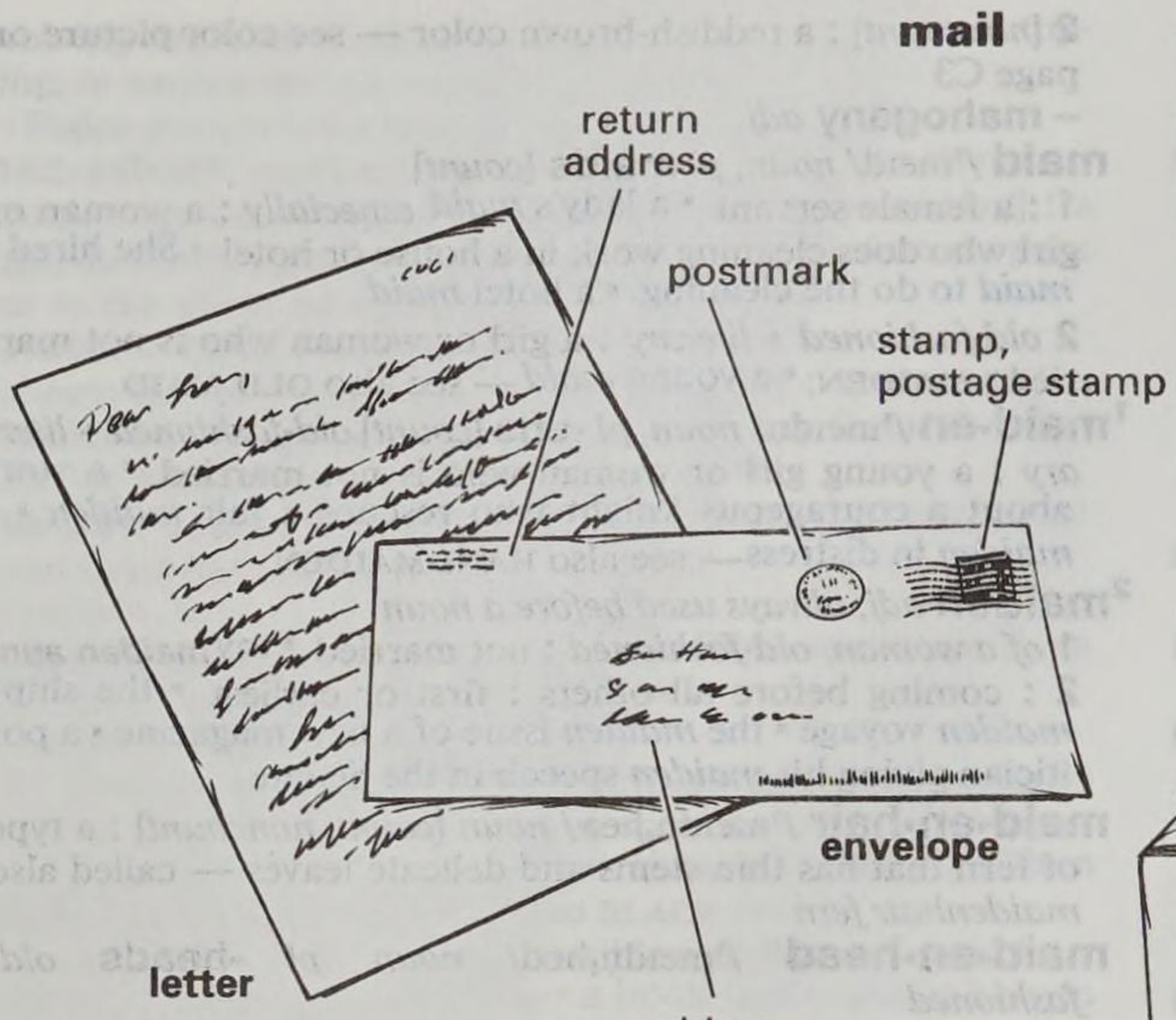
[1]mail /ˈmeɪl/ *noun* [*noncount*] ✧ *Mail* is used in British English but it is much more common in U.S. English. The usual word in British English is *post*.
1 : the system used for sending letters and packages from one person to another ▪ They do business by *mail*. ▪ Don't bring the check to the office—send it through the *mail*. ▪ The check is in the *mail*. [=the check has been sent and will be delivered by mail] ▪ I hope the check hasn't gotten lost in the *mail*. ▪ interoffice *mail* — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *post*; see also AIRMAIL, DIRECT MAIL, REGISTERED MAIL, RETURN MAIL, SURFACE MAIL, VOICE MAIL
2 : letters or packages sent from one person to another ▪ Was the notice in today's *mail*? ▪ Did we get any *mail* today? ▪ Has the *mail* arrived yet? ▪ sorting through the *mail* ▪ There's a pile of *mail* on the table. ▪ collecting and delivering the *mail* ▪ reading the *mail* ▪ They got a lot of ***hate mail*** [=extremely angry letters, e-mail, etc.] from people who disagree with their policies. ▪ He has a job in the ***mail room***. [=the room in an office where mail is handled] — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *post*; see also FAN MAIL, JUNK MAIL, SNAIL MAIL
3 : [1]E-MAIL ▪ I need to check my computer to see if I've gotten any *mail* today.
the mails *chiefly US, law, formal* : the system used for sending letters, packages, etc. : a nation's postal system ▪ packages sent through *the mails* ▪ He was charged with using *the mails* to commit fraud.
– compare [3]MAIL

[2]mail *verb* **mails**; **mailed**; **mail·ing** [+ *obj*] *chiefly US* : to send (something, such as a letter or package) by mail ▪ Have you *mailed* (out) the invitations yet? [=(*chiefly Brit*) have you posted the invitations yet?] ▪ She *mailed* me a copy of her manuscript. = She *mailed* a copy of her manuscript to me.

[3]mail *noun* [*noncount*] : a kind of protective clothing (called armor) that is made of many small pieces or rings of metal which are linked together ▪ a coat of *mail* — see also CHAIN MAIL — compare [1]MAIL

mail·bag /ˈmeɪlˌbæg/ *noun, pl* **-bags** [*count*]
1 : a large bag used for sending letters and packages in a truck, airplane, etc.
2 *chiefly US* : a bag carried by a person who delivers the mail — called also (*Brit*) *postbag*

mail·box /ˈmeɪlˌbɑ:ks/ *noun, pl* **-box·es** [*count*] *chiefly US*
1 : a public box in which letters and packages are placed to be collected and sent out ▪ On the way to work, I dropped my letters in the corner *mailbox*. — called also (*Brit*) *letter box*, (*Brit*) *postbox*
2 : a private box on or near a house in which mail is placed when it is delivered ▪ She checked her *mailbox* daily, hoping

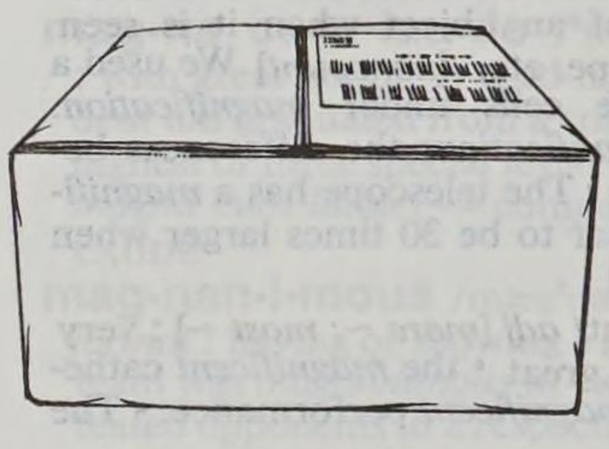




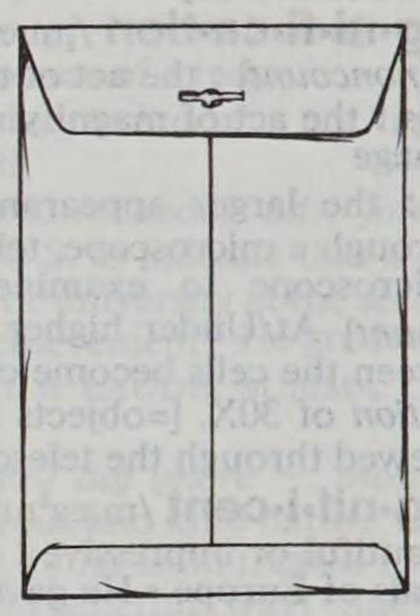
greeting card (*US*), greetings card (*Brit*)



postcard



package (*chiefly US*), **parcel**



manila envelope

for a letter from her son. — called also (*Brit*) *letter box*; see picture at HOUSE

3 *computers* : a computer folder that holds e-mail ▪ an electronic *mailbox*

mail carrier *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *US* : a person who delivers mail : LETTER CARRIER

mail drop *noun, pl* ~ **drops** [*count*] *US*

1 : a place or address where mail or messages can be left for someone

2 : a box in which mail can be placed

mail•er /ˈmeɪlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly US*

1 : a person or organization that mails something ▪ a letter *mailer*

2 : a container used for mailing something

3 : something (such as an advertisement) that is sent by mail

mail•ing /ˈmeɪlɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 [*noncount*] : the act of mailing something ▪ Get the check ready for *mailing* and take it to the post office.

2 [*count*] : something (such as a letter or an advertisement) that is mailed to many people at one time ▪ mass *mailings* ▪ The charity sent out several *mailings* to everyone on its mailing list. — called also (*Brit*) *mailshot*

mailing address *noun, pl* ~ **-dresses** [*count*] : an address to which mail can be sent ▪ His *mailing address* [=*postal address*] is different from his home address.

mailing list *noun, pl* ~ **lists** [*count*]

1 : a list of names and addresses to which mail is sent ▪ The charity sent out letters to everyone on its *mailing list*. ▪ He asked the company to put him on their *mailing list* so that he could receive their catalog.

2 : a list of names and e-mail addresses to which e-mails are sent by people who are on the list ▪ People subscribe to Internet *mailing lists* in order to exchange information about special subjects.

mail•man /ˈmeɪlˌmæn/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-ˌmɛn/ [*count*] *US* : a man who delivers mail : POSTMAN

mail order *noun, pl* ~ **-ders**

1 [*noncount*] : a method of buying products that are received by mail ▪ You can purchase the books by *mail order*.

2 [*count*] : a product that is sent by mail to the person who bought it ▪ The store sent out all its *mail orders* in time for the holiday.

– **mail–or•der** /ˈmeɪlˌoɚdɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *mail-order* catalog [=a catalog of products that can be ordered through the mail]

mail•shot /ˈmeɪlˌʃɑːt/ *noun, pl* **-shots** [*count*] *Brit* : MAILING 2

maim /ˈmeɪm/ *verb* **maims**; **maimed**; **maim•ing** [+ *obj*] : to injure (someone) very badly by violence ▪ The bomb killed 16 people and *maimed* several others. ▪ The accident left him (badly) *maimed* for life. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ a career *maimed* by scandal

¹main /ˈmeɪn/ *adj, always used before a noun* : most important : CHIEF, PRINCIPAL ▪ the *main* idea/point ▪ the *main* goal/purpose ▪ Speed is the *main* advantage of this approach. ▪ The company's *main* office is located in New York. ▪ the novel's *main* character ▪ driving down the *main* road/highway ▪ the *main* gate/entrance ▪ This dish can be served as a ***main course*** or appetizer. ▪ And now for the ***main event*** of the evening!

– **main•ly** *adv* ▪ The reviews have been *mainly* [=*mostly*] positive. ▪ a plant found *mainly* [=*chiefly*] in coastal regions ▪ I don't like the plan, *mainly* because I think it's too expensive. ▪ The problems have been *mainly* minor ones. [=most of the problems have been minor ones] ▪ They depend *mainly* on/upon fish for food.

²main *noun, pl* **mains**

1 [*count*] : the largest pipe in a system of connected pipes ▪ a gas *main* ▪ a water *main*

2 ***the mains*** *Brit* **a** : the system of pipes or wires for electricity, gas, or water ▪ My radio runs either off batteries or off *the mains*. — often used as *mains* before another noun ▪ We haven't had any *mains* water/electricity since the storm.

b : the place where electricity, gas, or water enters a building or room ▪ Turn off the water at *the mains*.

in the main : in general — used to say that a statement is true in most cases or at most times ▪ The workers are *in the main* very capable. [=most of the workers are very capable] ▪ The weather has *in the main* been quite good. [=has been quite good most of the time]

main clause *noun, pl* ~ **clauses** [*count*] *grammar* : a clause that could be used by itself as a simple sentence but that is part of a larger sentence — called also *independent clause*; compare COORDINATE CLAUSE, SUBORDINATE CLAUSE

main drag *noun, pl* ~ **drags** [*count*] *US, informal* : the main street in a town or city ▪ A carload of teenagers were cruising down the *main drag*.

main•frame /ˈmeɪnˌfreɪm/ *noun, pl* **-frames** [*count*] : a large and very fast computer that can do many jobs at once

main•land /ˈmeɪnˌlænd/ *noun* [*singular*] : a large area of land that forms a country or a continent and that does not include islands — used with *the* ▪ *the* Chinese *mainland* = *the mainland* of China ▪ After spending a week on the tiny island, we were happy to return to *the mainland*. — often used before another noun ▪ *mainland* China

¹main•line /ˈmeɪnˌlaɪn/ *adj, chiefly US* : belonging to an established and widely accepted group or system ▪ *mainline* [=*mainstream*] churches

²mainline *verb* **-lines**; **-lined**; **-lin•ing** *slang* : to inject (a drug) directly into a vein [+ *obj*] addicts *mainlining* heroin [*no obj*] His addiction grew worse when he began *mainlining*.

main line *noun, pl* ~ **lines** [*count*] : an important highway or railroad line

main man *noun, pl* ~ **men** [*count*] *US, informal*

1 : someone's best male friend ▪ He's still her *main man*.

2 : the most important or admired man in a group • The team has many good players, but he is clearly the *main man*.

main•sail /'meɪn,seɪl, 'meɪnsəl/ *noun, pl* **-sails** [*count*] : the largest sail of a sailing ship

main•spring /'meɪn,sprɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-springs** [*count*]
1 : the most important spring in a watch or clock
2 : the most important or powerful cause or part of something • Agriculture is the *mainspring* of their economy.

main squeeze *noun, pl* ~ **squeezes** [*count*] *chiefly US slang* : someone's main girlfriend, boyfriend, or lover • She's my *main squeeze*.

main•stay /'meɪn,steɪ/ *noun, pl* **-stays** [*count*] : a very important part of something • Fish is a *mainstay* of their diet. • a dietary *mainstay* : something or someone that provides support and makes it possible for something to exist or succeed • My mother has always been the *mainstay* of our family.

[1]main•stream /'meɪn,stri:m/ *noun*
the mainstream : the thoughts, beliefs, and choices that are accepted by the largest number of people • His ideas are well outside *the mainstream* of political opinion. = His ideas are well outside *the* political *mainstream*.
– **mainstream** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • *mainstream* medicine [=the type of medicine that is most widely practiced and accepted] • *mainstream* movies • Advertisers are trying to attract a more *mainstream* audience.

[2]main•stream /'meɪn'stri:m/ *verb* **-streams**; **-streamed**; **-stream•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 *chiefly US* : to place (a child with special educational needs) in regular school classes
2 : to cause (someone or something) to be included in or accepted by the group that includes most people • The poor should be *mainstreamed* into the private health-insurance system. • Ideas that were once controversial have now become *mainstreamed*.

main street *noun, pl* ~ **streets**
1 [*count*] : the most important street of a U.S. town where there are many stores, banks, etc. — often used as a name • The restaurant is at 257 *Main Street*.
2 ***Main Street*** [*noncount*] *US* — used to refer to middle-class people in the U.S. who have traditional beliefs and values • What does *Main Street* think of this policy?

main•tain /meɪn'teɪn/ *verb* **-tains**; **-tained**; **-tain•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to cause (something) to exist or continue without changing • They have always *maintained* high standards of professional conduct. • He has found it difficult to *maintain* a healthy weight. • *maintain* a good reputation • They barely had enough food to ***maintain life***. [=to make it possible for life to exist or continue]
2 : to keep (something) in good condition by making repairs, correcting problems, etc. • The company has done a poor job of *maintaining* its computer network. • It was obvious that the house had been poorly *maintained*.
3 : to continue having or doing (something) • She was finding it hard to *maintain* her balance. • She still *maintains* a close relationship with her college roommate. • It's difficult to *maintain* a correspondence when we're both so busy. • The pilot was struggling to *maintain* control of the aircraft. • The police say that they will do whatever is necessary to *maintain* law and order. • She continues to *maintain* her silence. [=she continues to say nothing] • He was struggling to ***maintain his cool/composure***. [=he was struggling not to become angry or upset]
4 : to say that (something) is true • He *maintains* that such decisions are best left to local authorities. • He continues to *maintain* his innocence. = He continues to *maintain* that he is innocent. • She *maintains* that my theory is flawed.
5 : to provide support for (someone or something) • He has a family to *maintain*.

main•te•nance /'meɪntənəns/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the act of maintaining something or someone: such as **a** : the act of keeping property or equipment in good condition by making repairs, correcting problems, etc. • The building has suffered from years of poor *maintenance*. • the costs of routine car *maintenance* — often used before another noun • a *maintenance* worker [=a worker whose job is to keep property or equipment in good condition] • a *maintenance* fee • She works in the company's *maintenance* department. **b** : the act of causing something to exist or continue without changing • *maintenance* of law and order **c** : the act of providing support for someone or something • money for the family's *maintenance*
2 *Brit* : CHILD SUPPORT

maize /meɪz/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : [1]CORN 1a

ma•jes•tic /mə'ʤɛstɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : large and impressively beautiful • *majestic* mountains/trees • *majestic* phrases – **ma•jes•ti•cal•ly** /mə'ʤɛstɪkli/ *adv* • mountains rising *majestically* above the surrounding hills

maj•es•ty /'mæʤəsti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**
1 [*noncount*] : a great and impressively beautiful quality • the *majesty* of the mountains
2 ***Majesty*** [*count*] — used as a title for a king, queen, emperor, or empress; used with *his, her, your*, or *their* • *Your Majesty* • *Her Majesty's* Government • *Their Majesties*

[1]ma•jor /'meɪʤə/ *adj*
1 a : very important • a *major* poet/artist • He's one of the *major* figures in 19th-century U.S. history. • Researchers have announced a *major* advance/breakthrough in the treatment of cancer. • *major* American cities • a *major* event • a question of *major* [=*great*] importance • *major* rivers/roads • She played a *major* role in the negotiations. • a *major* earthquake • a writer's *major* works • No *major* changes are expected. • The problems do not appear to be (very) *major*. **b** *always used before a noun* : large in number, amount, or extent • The grant covered a *major* part of the cost. • Butter is one of the *major* ingredients in the recipe. • The movie turned out to be a *major* disappointment. [=the movie was very disappointing] • (*informal*) A car like that costs *major* money. [=a lot of money]
2 : very serious or bad • None of his health problems are *major*. • a *major* illness/disease • He suffered a *major* heart attack. • She's having *major* surgery. • *major* depression • a *major* accident
3 *music* **a** *of a scale* : having semitones between the third and fourth and the seventh and eighth notes • a *major* scale • the C-*major* scale [=the major scale that is in the key of C] **b** : based on a major scale • a *major* key — compare [1]MINOR 3

[2]major *noun, pl* **-jors** [*count*]
1 : a military officer in the army, air force, or marines who ranks above a captain • an Army *major* • *Major* Smith — see also SERGEANT MAJOR
2 *US* **a** : the main subject studied by a college or university student • He chose history as his *major* and French as his minor. • What was your *major* in college? — compare [2]MINOR 2 **b** : a student who has a specified main subject of study • In college, he was a history *major*. • a club for physics *majors*
the majors *US, informal* : the major leagues of baseball • As a boy, he dreamed of playing in *the majors*.
– see also DRUM MAJOR

[3]major *verb* **-jors**; **-jored**; **-jor•ing**
major in [*phrasal verb*] ***major in (something)*** *US, of a college or university student* : to have (a specified subject) as your main subject of study • In college, he *majored in* history and minored in French.
major on [*phrasal verb*] ***major on (something)*** *Brit* : to pay special attention to (something) • The carmaker *majors on* comfort in its new models.

ma•jor•do•mo /,meɪʤə'doʊmoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-mos** [*count*]
1 *old-fashioned* : the person who runs a large house
2 : someone who runs an organization or a project

ma•jor•ette /,meɪʤə'rɛt/ *noun, pl* **-ettes** [*count*] : a girl or woman who marches with a band and spins a baton — called also *drum majorette*

major general *noun, pl* ~ **-als** [*count*] : a military officer of high rank in the army, air force, or marines

ma•jor•i•ty /mə'ʤɔrəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**
1 [*singular*] : a number that is greater than half of a total • Unfortunately, the *majority* of (the) students [=most of the students] in the class failed the test. • The policy is supported by the great/vast/overwhelming *majority* of (the) voters. • A clear *majority* of the voters support the policy.
2 a [*count*] : a number of votes that is more than half of the total number • They won by a *majority* of seven. [=the total number of votes they received was seven more than half of all the votes] • The proposal failed to win a *majority* in the Senate. [=the proposal was defeated because it was not voted for by more than half the senators] • The law will pass only if it is approved by at least a two-thirds *majority*. [=if two out of three voters approve it] **b** [*singular*] : the group or party that is the greater part of a large group • The Republicans/Democrats are currently the *majority* in the Senate. • Sup-

porters of the new law appear to be ***in the majority.*** [=there are more people who support the new law than who oppose it] — see also SILENT MAJORITY

3 [*noncount*] *law* : the age at which a person is given the full rights of an adult • The age of *majority* in the U.S. is 18. = The age when you reach your *majority* in the U.S. is 18. — compare MINORITY 4

– **majority** *adj, always used before a noun* • the *majority* opinion [=the opinion of most of the people] • a *majority* decision [=a decision supported by most of the people] • Republicans/Democrats are the *majority* party in the Senate.

majority leader *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : the leader of the political party that has the most members in the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives — compare MINORITY LEADER

majority rule *noun* [*noncount*] : a political system in which the group that has the most members has the power to make decisions

major leagues *noun*

the major leagues : the two highest U.S. baseball leagues (the American League and the National League) • He always dreamed of playing in *the major leagues*. [=(*US*) *the big leagues*] — sometimes used figuratively • She's moving up to *the major leagues* in the television industry. — compare MINOR LEAGUE

– **major–league** *adj* • *major-league* baseball • a *major-league* player — sometimes used figuratively • We've been experiencing some *major-league* problems. [=major problems, very serious problems] – **major leaguer** *noun, pl* ~ **-guers** [*count*] • He hopes to be a *major leaguer* [=(*US*) *big leaguer*] some day.

ma•jor•ly /ˈmeɪʤəli/ *adv, informal* : very or extremely • She was *majorly* annoyed.

[1]make /ˈmeɪk/ *verb* **makes**; **made** /ˈmeɪd/; **mak•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to build, create, or produce (something) by work or effort • *make* a box/chair/suit • *make* someone a dress = *make* a dress for someone • He works in a factory that *makes* jet engines. • She *made* the curtains herself. • He collected wood to *make* a fire. • She used cheese and a mixture of other ingredients to *make* a delicious sauce. — often followed by *with* to describe the things that are used to produce something • She *made* the sauce *with* cheese and other ingredients. — often followed by *of* to describe the material that forms something • The box is *made of* wood. [=it is a wood/wooden box; the material used to produce the box was wood] • The topping is *made* entirely *of* cheese. [=the topping consists entirely of cheese] — often followed by *from* to describe the source of a product • Cheese is *made from* milk. **b** : to use (something) to create a product — + *into* • She *made* the material *into* a dress. • She *made* a mixture of ingredients *into* a delicious sauce.

2 [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to exist, happen, or appear • Someone was *making* a disturbance. • The car's engine has been *making* a strange noise lately. • The rock *made* a dent in the car's fender. • I'm not trying to *make* trouble. • The typist *made* a mistake. • I called the doctor's office to *make* an appointment. • They moved over and *made* room for her. • I want to *make* a good home for my children.

3 [+ *obj*] : to create or write (something) in an official or legal way • The government should *make* laws to protect poor people. • I don't *make* the rules; I just follow them. • You should *make* a will.

4 [+ *obj*] : to produce, direct, or act in (something, such as a movie) • a director who has *made* some classic films • That actor has *made* many films.

5 [+ *obj*] : to cause (something or someone) to be changed in a specified way • They adapted a Russian play and *made* the setting Dublin rather than Moscow. • We originally planned on a one-week vacation, but we decided to *make* it two weeks instead. • The experience *made* him a cynic. = The experience *made* a cynic (out) of him. = The experience *made* [=*changed, turned*] him into a cynic. • I'd like a hamburger. No, wait—*make* that a cheeseburger.

6 [+ *obj*] : to cause (something or someone) to have a specified quality, feeling, etc. • A good teacher *makes* learning enjoyable. • She *made* what she wanted clear to us. = She *made* (it) clear to us what she wanted. [=she said or showed clearly what she wanted] • He *made* it understood/known that he expected us to help. • The experience *made* him cynical. • Working in the garden *makes* me very tired. • It *makes* me sad to think that the summer is ending. • The photograph *makes* me seem/look fat. ✧ To ***make yourself useful*** means to do something useful. • Why don't you *make yourself useful* by washing the dishes? ✧ To ***make yourself heard/understood (etc.)*** means to do what is necessary to be sure that people hear you, understand you, etc. • The music was so loud that she could hardly *make herself heard*. • She doesn't speak French well, but she can *make herself understood*.

7 [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to be or become something • A good teacher *makes* learning a pleasure. = A good teacher *makes* it a pleasure to learn. • Yes, you can leave work early today, but don't *make* it a habit. • The bright paint really *makes* the room come alive!

8 [+ *obj*] **a** : to cause (someone) to do something • He yelled at her and *made* her cry. • How can I *make* you understand that I love you?! **b** : to force (someone) to do something • We have to find a way to *make* them work faster. • They *made* me wait for an hour. • If he doesn't want to do it, we can't *make* him (do it). • They used threats to *make* her do it. = She was *made* to do it by the use of threats.

9 [+ *obj*] : to give a particular job, title, status, etc., to (someone) • They *made* him (the) Emperor. • They *made* her a member of their club. = She was *made* a member of their club.

10 [+ *obj*] : to perform (a particular action) • He *made* a bow. [=he bowed] • We *made* [=*took*] a detour to avoid traffic. • They *made* [=*got*] an early start. [=they started early] • I have to *make* a (telephone) call to my boss. [=I have to call/telephone my boss] • May I *make* a suggestion? [=may I suggest something?] • "*Make* love, not war!" shouted the demonstrators. • I'm not used to *making* [=*giving*] speeches. • They *made* a bet [=they bet] that she would win. • Don't *make* any sudden movements. • They *made* a contribution. [=they contributed] • We should *make* a distinction between them. • She *made* a promise to him. = She *made* him a promise. • He *made* note of her address. • Time is running out. You'll have to *make* a decision soon.

11 [+ *obj*] : to form (a plan) in your mind • Have you *made* any plans for your vacation?

12 [+ *obj*] : to arrange the blankets and sheets on (a bed) so that the mattress is covered • She always *makes* the bed after she gets up in the morning.

13 [+ *obj*] : to prepare (food or drink) • Let me *make* dinner for you. = Let me *make* you dinner. • Can I *make* you a drink? • I'll *make* the pasta if you *make* the salad. • She *made* a cake for her daughter's birthday.

14 a [*linking verb*] — used to indicate a total • That *makes* the third time you've said the same thing! • I've lost again! That *makes* $3 I owe you. • "I'm hungry." " ***That makes two of us.***" [=I'm hungry too] **b** [+ *obj*] : to be equal to (an amount) • Three plus two *make/makes* [=*equals, totals*] five. **c** [+ *obj*] : to calculate (an amount, total, etc.) • "What do you *make* the time?" [=what do you think the time is?] "(I *make* it) About half past three." • I *make* the distance back to camp about four miles. = I *make* it about four miles back to camp.

15 a [+ *obj*] : to be used to produce (something) • Rags *make* the best paper. **b** [*linking verb*] : to be suited for use as (something) • This new building would *make* [=*be*] a fine school. **c** [*linking verb*] : to be or become (something) • She and her boyfriend *make* [=*are*] a lovely couple. • She will *make* a fine judge one day. • She *made* [=*was*] a loving wife to him. = She *made* him a loving wife.

16 [+ *obj*] : to arrive at (a place) • The ship *made* port today.

17 [+ *obj*] : to earn or gain (money, a profit, etc.) • He *makes* $50,000 a year. • She *makes* a good salary. • Their products are so inexpensive I don't know how they *make* a profit. • She *made* $100 on the deal. = The deal *made* $100 for her. = The deal *made* her $100. • He ***makes a/his living*** by doing small jobs. • He ***made a/his fortune in*** the stock market.

18 [+ *obj*] **a** : to be accepted as a member of (a group, team, etc.) • She's finally *made* the team. **b** : to appear on or in (a newspaper, a headline, etc.) • The story of his accident *made* the front page of the paper. • The story *made* headlines all across the country. **c** *chiefly US* : to be promoted to (a level or rank) • My uncle is in the army. He *made* major last year.

19 [+ *obj*] *sports* **a** : to succeed in doing (something that you attempt) • I missed the first foul shot but *made* the second one. • He has to *make* this putt to win the tournament. — opposite MISS **b** : to produce (a particular score) • She *made* a 6 on the second hole. • He *made* a birdie/bogey.

20 [+ *obj*] **a** : to not be too late for (something) • They (just/barely) *made* the deadline. • We got to the station just in time to *make* the train. — opposite MISS **b** : to reach or go to (a place) • We *made* [=*reached*] Atlanta in just under two hours.

c : to succeed in reaching or going to (something) ▪ The team *made* [=qualified for] the play-offs last year. ▪ I don't know if I'll be able to *make* that meeting. — opposite MISS

21 [+ *obj*] : to act in a way that causes someone to be your friend, enemy, etc. ▪ She *makes* friends easily. ▪ He *made* a few enemies when he worked here.

22 [+ *obj*] : to cause the success of (someone or something) ▪ This film could ***make or break*** her career. [=the success or failure of her career could depend on the success or failure of this film] — see also MAKE-OR-BREAK

23 [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to be enjoyable, attractive, etc. ▪ The bright paint really *makes* the room! ▪ Meeting the star of the show really ***made our day***!

24 [*no obj*] *old-fashioned* + *literary* : to seem to begin an action ▪ She *made* to go. = She *made* as if to go. [=she moved in a way that suggested she was going]

make a face see [1]FACE

make away with [*phrasal verb*] ***make away with (something)*** *literary* : to steal and take away (something) ▪ Someone had *made away with* [=*made off with*] all the money.

make believe see BELIEVE

make do : to proceed or do what you can with the things that you have even though you do not have what you want ▪ They didn't have much money but they somehow managed to *make do*. — often + *with* ▪ If we can't get what we want, we'll just have to *make do with* what we've got. — often + *without* ▪ If we don't have carrots for the soup, we'll just have to *make do without* them.

make eyes at see [1]EYE

make for [*phrasal verb*] ***make for (something)*** **1** : to go toward (a place) quickly ▪ Everyone *made for* [=*headed for*] the exit as soon as the show was over. ▪ After he left the office he *made* straight *for* home. **2** : to cause (something) to happen or to be more likely ▪ Courtesy *makes for* safer driving.

make friends see FRIEND

make it **1** : to reach a particular place, goal, etc. ▪ The ship *made it* to port. ▪ You'll never *make it* that far. ▪ The climbers finally *made it* to the top of the mountain. ▪ Welcome to the party. I'm glad you could *make it*! = Welcome! I'm glad you could *make it* to the party! ▪ The story *made it* to the front page. [=the story appeared on the front page] ▪ She's finally *made it* onto the team. [=she finally was accepted on the team] ▪ If we hurry, we can still *make it* home before dark. **2** : to not fail, die, etc. : SURVIVE ▪ Many new businesses don't *make it* through their first year. ▪ He's very sick. The doctor doesn't think he's going to *make it*. **3** : to become successful ▪ It's tough to succeed in this business, but if you work hard I know you'll *make it* eventually. ▪ He ***made it big*** [=became very successful] in real estate. **4** *chiefly US, informal* : to have sex ▪ His girlfriend caught him *making it* with another girl.

make like *US, informal* **1** : to pretend to be (someone or something) ▪ He *made like* a rooster and strutted across the stage. **2** : to act in a way that does not show your true feelings ▪ He *made like* [=*acted like*] he didn't care.

make love see [1]LOVE

make merry see MERRY

make much of : to treat (something) as very important ▪ In talking about his past, the book *makes much of* the influence of his brother. [=the book says that his brother's influence was very important] ▪ She tends to *make* far too *much of* her problems. ▪ You shouldn't *make* too *much of* what he said—he was only joking.

make nice see NICE

make of [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***make (something) of (something or someone)*** : to have or form an opinion about (something or someone) ▪ What do you *make of* this? [=what is your opinion about this?] ▪ I can't *make* anything *of* it at all. ▪ I don't know what to *make of* her behavior. [=I don't understand her behavior] ▪ He's a strange guy. I don't know quite what to *make of* him. **2** ***make (a day, night, etc.) of it*** : to continue with an enjoyable activity during all of (a day, night, etc.) ▪ Since we're going out to dinner anyway, let's *make an evening of it* and go to a movie afterward. **3** ***make something of (yourself or your life)*** : to become successful ▪ She has worked very hard to *make something of herself*. ▪ He wants to *make something of his life*. [=to have a successful and productive life] **4** ***make something of it*** *informal* : to treat something as a reason for arguing or being angry — used in speech as an angry way of telling someone that you are prepared to fight or argue about something ▪ Yes, I got home late last night. Do you want to *make something of it*? [=do you want to argue/fight about it?] — see also MAKE MUCH OF (above)

make off [*phrasal verb*] **1** *chiefly Brit* : to leave quickly especially in order to escape ▪ After taking the money, the thieves *made off* toward the main highway. **2** ***make off with (something)*** : to take or steal (something) and go away ▪ Someone broke into the office and *made off with* some valuable equipment.

make out [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***make (something) out*** *or* ***make out (something)*** : to write down the required information on (something, such as a check) ▪ He *made out* a check for $100 to cover the cost of the repairs. ▪ *make out* [=*fill out*] a form ▪ The doctor will *make out* a prescription for you. = The doctor will *make* you *out* a prescription. ▪ She *made out* a shopping list before going to the grocery store. **2** ***make (something) out*** *or* ***make out (something)*** **a** : to see and identify (something) ▪ We could just *make out* a ship approaching through the fog. **b** : to hear and understand (something) ▪ I couldn't quite *make out* what she said. **c** : to learn or understand (something) by studying, searching, etc. ▪ I can't quite *make out* [=*tell*] whether he's drunk or sober. ▪ We're still trying to *make out* [=*find out, figure out*] what really happened. **3** ***make (someone) out*** *informal* : to understand the behavior of (someone) — used in negative statements ▪ I just *can't make* him *out* [=figure him out]—he's so contradictory. **4** ***make (someone or something) out*** : to describe (someone or something) in a specified and usually false way ▪ The book *makes* them *out* to be criminals. ▪ Don't *make* them *out* as worse than they are. ▪ He's not as bad as he's *made out* (to be). = He's not as bad as people *make* him *out* (to be). **5** *informal* — used to ask about or describe the success or progress of someone or something ▪ "How are you *making out* [=*doing, getting along*] in your new job?" "Just fine, thank you!" ▪ "How did the team *make out* yesterday?" "They won." ▪ (*US*) He ***made out like a bandit*** [=he made a lot of money] when he sold the company. **6** *chiefly US, informal* : to kiss and touch for a long time in a sexual way ▪ She was *making out* [=(*old-fashioned*) *necking*] with her boyfriend.

make over [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***make (something or someone) over*** *or* ***make over (something or someone)*** : to change the appearance of (something or someone) ▪ We *made* the whole house *over* so it looked more modern. — see also MAKEOVER **2** ***make (something) over*** *or* ***make over (something)*** : to give (property) to another person in an official or legal way ▪ He *made* the ranch/shares *over* to his eldest son.

make up [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***make (something) up*** *or* ***make up (something)*** : to create or invent (a story, a lie, etc.) ▪ He entertained the children by *making up* a funny story about a cat that lived on a sailboat. ▪ He *made up* some excuse about having problems with his car, but no one believed him. ▪ It never happened: you *made* it all *up*! ▪ He didn't have a prepared speech. He just *made* it *up* as he went along. — see also MADE-UP **2** ***make (something) up*** *or* ***make up (something)*** **a** : to combine to produce (something) ▪ Ten chapters *make up* this volume. = This volume is *made up* [=*composed*] of 10 chapters. **b** : to produce or create (something) by putting together different parts ▪ They're going to *make up* a list of requirements for us. = They're going to *make* us *up* a list of requirements. **c** : to prepare (something) so that it is ready to be used ▪ I'll *make up* a bed for you. = I'll *make* you *up* a bed. [=I'll prepare a bed for you to sleep in] **d** *Brit* : to supply (something) according to directions ▪ *make up* [=(*US*) *fill*] a prescription **3** ***make (something) up*** *or* ***make up (something)*** : to provide an amount of time, money, etc., that is needed ▪ The total cost of the repairs is $200. If you can pay half of that, I'll *make up* the rest. ▪ I'll *make up* the difference. ▪ I have to leave work early today, but I'll ***make up the time*** by working late tomorrow. **4** ***make up (someone or something)*** *or* ***make (someone or something) up*** **a** : to put makeup on (someone or someone's face) ▪ She *made* herself *up* for the party. ▪ Her face was heavily *made up*. [=there was a lot of makeup on her face] — see also MADE-UP **b** : to change the appearance of (someone or something) by using costumes, decorations, etc. ▪ The actor was *made up* to look like George Washington. ▪ The room was *made up* to look like a disco. **5** *informal* : to become friendly again after being angry ▪ They quarreled but later *made up* (with each other). ▪ He *made up* with his girlfriend. ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) She's trying to ***make it up*** with him. **6** ***make up for (something)*** : to do or have something as a

way of correcting or improving (something else) ▪ He wanted to *make up for* [=*atone for*] neglecting his children by spending more time with them. ▪ She tried to *make up for* lost time by working extra hard. ▪ What the movie lacks in plot it *makes up for* in special effects. **7 *make up to (someone)*** *Brit, informal* + *disapproving* : to treat (someone) in a very friendly or helpful way in order to get something for yourself ▪ an employee who's always *making up to* [=(*US, informal*) *sucking up to*] the boss **8 *make it up to (someone)*** : to do something helpful or good for (someone you have hurt or treated wrongly) ▪ He'd neglected his children and wanted to *make it up to* them by spending more time with them.

make up your mind see ¹MIND

make your way, make way see ¹WAY

– see also MADE

²make *noun, pl* **makes** [*count*] : a group of products that are all made by a particular company and given a particular name ▪ The store sells computers in many different *makes* [=*brands*] and models. ▪ "What *make* of car is that?" "I think it's a Ford."

on the make *informal* + *often disapproving* **1** : trying to get more money or power ▪ He doesn't trust anyone in the movie business. He thinks that everyone in Hollywood is always *on the make*. **2** : trying to get sex ▪ a beautiful woman who's often approached by guys *on the make*

make•able *or* **mak•able** /ˈmeɪkəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *sports* : able to be made or likely to be made ▪ a *makeable* putt ▪ a *makable* field goal

¹make–be•lieve /ˈmeɪkbəˌliːv/ *noun* [*noncount*] : things that are imagined or pretended to be true or real ▪ He has been living in ***a world of make-believe***. [=he has been believing things that are not true; he has been living in a fantasy world] ✧ When children ***play make-believe***, they think of an imaginary world and pretend to live in it as people, animals, fairies, etc. — see also *make believe* at BELIEVE

²make–believe *adj, always used before a noun* : not real ▪ The commercial showed a *make-believe* scientist in a white lab coat talking about the benefits of the product. ▪ He has been living in a *make-believe* world.

make–or–break /ˈmeɪkəˈbreɪk/ *adj, always used before a noun* : resulting in either definite success or definite failure ▪ a *make-or-break* decision ▪ The next year will be a *make-or-break* time for the company.

make•over /ˈmeɪkˌoʊvɚ/ *noun, pl* **-overs** [*count*] : the act or process of making changes to improve the appearance or effectiveness of someone or something ▪ The actress had a complete *makeover* to turn her into a glamorous star. ▪ They gave their advertising a total *makeover* to improve their corporate image. — see also *make over* at ¹MAKE

mak•er /ˈmeɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers**

1 [*count*] **a** : a person who makes something ▪ a *maker* of action films — often used in combination ▪ a film*maker* ▪ a trouble*maker* ▪ a glass*maker* ▪ government policy-*makers* ▪ a peace*maker* **b** : a company that makes a specified product ▪ one of the nation's leading *makers* [=*manufacturers*] of fine cars ▪ a *maker* of computer chips ▪ computer *makers* — often used in combination ▪ an auto*maker* **c** : a machine that makes something ▪ an ice-cream *maker* ▪ a pasta *maker* — often used in combination ▪ a coffee*maker*

2 *Maker* [*singular*] : GOD ▪ a hymn giving thanks to the *Maker* of all things

meet your maker *or* ***meet your Maker*** : to die ▪ He says he's not afraid to *meet his maker*. — often used figuratively ▪ My old car has finally gone to *meet its maker*.

make•shift /ˈmeɪkˌʃɪft/ *adj* : used as a usually rough and temporary replacement for something ▪ A large box served as a *makeshift* table.

make•up /ˈmeɪkˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups**

1 [*singular*] : the way in which something is put together or arranged — often + *of* ▪ the *makeup of* the Earth's atmosphere ▪ the ethnic *makeup of* the neighborhood ▪ the *makeup* [=*layout*] *of* a printed page

2 [*singular*] : the physical, mental, and moral character of a person ▪ His daring attitude toward risks is a major part of his *makeup*. ▪ her psychological *makeup*

3 [*noncount*] **a** : substances (such as lipstick or powder) used to make someone's face look more attractive ▪ She put on some *makeup* before the party. ▪ She applied her *makeup* lightly/heavily. ▪ wearing heavy/thick *makeup* ▪ She's too young to wear *makeup*. ▪ a *makeup* artist [=a person whose job is to put makeup on actors or models] **b** : materials (such as wigs or cosmetics) that are used to change the appearance of an actor ▪ put on *makeup* for a play ▪ I didn't recognize him when he was in his theatrical/stage *makeup*.

4 [*count*] *US* : a special test for a student who has missed or failed a previous test ▪ He'll have to pass the *makeup* to graduate. — often used before another noun ▪ a *makeup* exam/test/quiz — see also *make up* at ¹MAKE

mak•ing /ˈmeɪkɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 [*noncount*] : the action or process of producing or making something ▪ methods used in the *making* of wine — often used in combination ▪ dress*making* ▪ film*making* ▪ government policy-*making*

2 [*noncount*] : something that causes someone to become better or more successful ▪ His time in the army was ***the making of*** him. [=he became a better person because of his time in the army] ▪ That movie was *the making of* her as an actress. [=that movie made her a well-known and successful actress]

3 *makings* [*plural*] **a** *US* : the people or things that are needed for making something ▪ With beans, rice, cheese, and fresh salsa, you ***have (all) the makings of/for*** a delicious burrito. **b** : the qualities that are needed to become something ▪ He ***has (all) the makings of*** a great quarterback. [=he has the talent needed to become a great quarterback]

in the making : in the process of being made ▪ The film was three years *in the making*. [=it took three years to make the film] ▪ She has a talent for spotting problems *in the making*. [=for spotting problems as they are beginning to develop] ▪ We were watching ***history in the making***. [=we were watching an important historical event as it happened]

of your own making : caused by your own actions ▪ The problem is entirely *of your own making*. [=the problem is entirely your own fault; you alone are responsible for the problem]

mal- *combining form* : bad or badly ▪ *mal*practice ▪ *mal*treatment ▪ *mal*odorous

mal•ad•just•ed /ˌmælə'ʤʌstəd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not able to deal with other people in a normal or healthy way ▪ socially *maladjusted* people — opposite WELL-ADJUSTED

– mal•ad•just•ment /ˌmælə'ʤʌstmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ emotional *maladjustment*

mal•adroit /ˌmælə'drɔɪt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : very awkward : not skillful or adroit ▪ The governor has been criticized for his *maladroit* handling of the budget crisis. ▪ a socially *maladroit* teenager

– mal•adroit•ly *adv* **– mal•adroit•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

mal•a•dy /ˈmælədi/ *noun, pl* **-dies** [*count*] *formal* : a disease or illness ▪ The patient was suffering from a mysterious *malady* [=*ailment*] that the doctors were unable to identify. — often used figuratively ▪ unemployment and other social *maladies*

mal•aise /məˈleɪz/ *noun*

1 *medical* : a slight or general feeling of not being healthy or happy [*noncount*] The symptoms include headache, *malaise*, and fatigue. [*singular*] An infected person will feel a general *malaise*. ▪ a spiritual *malaise*

2 : a problem or condition that harms or weakens a group, society, etc. [*noncount*] postwar *malaise* [*singular*] The country's current economic problems are symptoms of a deeper *malaise*.

mal•a•prop•ism /ˈmælə,prɑːpˌɪzəm/ *noun, pl* **-isms** [*count*] : an amusing error that occurs when a person mistakenly uses a word that sounds like another word but that has a very different meaning

ma•lar•ia /məˈlerijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a serious disease that causes chills and fever and that is passed from one person to another by the bite of mosquitoes

– ma•lar•i•al /məˈlerijəl/ *adj* ▪ *malarial* fever

ma•lar•key /məˈlɑɚki/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : foolish words or ideas : NONSENSE ▪ He thinks everything politicians say is just a bunch of *malarkey*.

mal•con•tent /ˌmælkənˈtɛnt, *Brit* ˈmælkəntɛnt/ *noun, pl* **-tents** [*count*] *disapproving* : a person who is always or often unhappy or angry about something ▪ He complained so much that he got a reputation for being a *malcontent*.

¹male /ˈmeɪl/ *adj*

1 a : of or relating to the sex that cannot produce young or lay eggs ▪ a *male* bird/mammal/insect ▪ *male* athletes ▪ a study of *male* [=*men's*] sexuality ▪ There were more *male* than female students. **b** [*more ~; most ~*] : characteristic of boys or men ▪ a *male* [=*masculine*] voice/name **c** : having members who are all boys or men ▪ a *male* choir

2 *of a plant* : not producing fruit or seeds ▪ a *male* holly

3 *technical* : having a part that fits into the hole in another part (called a female part) ▪ Most extension cords have a *male* plug on one end and a female plug on the other.
– **male•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[2]male *noun, pl* **males** [*count*]
1 : a man or a boy : a male person ▪ She attended a school where there were more *males* than females.

> ***usage*** The use of *male* to mean "man" or "boy" now occurs most commonly in scientific or technical language. ▪ According to the study, *males* scored about the same as females. ▪ The suspect was a white *male* aged about 30. In other contexts, it is often seen as a humorous or mildly insulting word. ▪ She referred to her husband's friends as "a bunch of clumsy *males*."

2 : a male animal ▪ The *male* of this species assists the female in feeding the young.
3 : a plant that does not produce seed or fruit : a male plant

male•fac•tor /ˈmælə,fæktɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] *formal* : someone who is guilty of a crime or offense : a person whose behavior is wrong or evil ▪ He favors harsh punishment for chronic *malefactors*. [=*criminals*]

ma•lev•o•lent /məˈlɛvələnt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : having or showing a desire to cause harm to another person ▪ Her reputation has been hurt by *malevolent* [=*malicious*] gossip. ▪ a *malevolent* demon ▪ a *malevolent* lie/smile
– **ma•lev•o•lence** /məˈlɛvələns/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **ma•lev•o•lent•ly** *adv*

mal•fea•sance /ˌmælˈfi:zn̩s/ *noun* [*noncount*] *law* : illegal or dishonest activity especially by a public official or a corporation ▪ The investigation has uncovered evidence of corporate *malfeasance*.

mal•for•ma•tion /ˌmælfoɚˈmeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** *medical* : a condition in which part of the body does not have the normal or expected shape [*noncount*] The condition is marked by *malformation* of the spine. [*count*] She underwent surgery to correct a heart *malformation*.

mal•formed /ˌmælˈfoɚmd/ *adj, medical* : not having the normal or expected shape especially because of a problem in the way something has developed or grown : badly or improperly formed ▪ a *malformed* foot

mal•func•tion /ˌmælˈfʌŋkʃən/ *verb* **-tions**; **-tioned**; **-tion•ing** [*no obj*] : to fail to function or work properly ▪ A software problem is causing the system to *malfunction*.
– **malfunction** *noun, pl* **-tions** [*noncount*] The problem is causing *malfunction* of the system. [*count*] system *malfunctions*

mal•ice /ˈmæləs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a desire to cause harm to another person ▪ an attack motivated by pure *malice* ▪ She claimed that her criticisms were without *malice*.
with malice aforethought *law* — used to describe a criminal act that was deliberately planned to cause harm to someone ▪ Murder is the killing of another person *with malice aforethought*.

ma•li•cious /məˈlɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing a desire to cause harm to another person : having or showing malice ▪ a *malicious* liar ▪ *malicious* gossip ▪ a *malicious* distortion of the truth
– **ma•li•cious•ly** *adv* ▪ He claims his statements have been *maliciously* distorted. – **ma•li•cious•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]ma•lign /məˈlaɪn/ *verb* **-ligns**; **-ligned**; **-lign•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to say bad things about (someone or something) publicly : to criticize (someone or something) harshly or unfairly ▪ Her supporters say she is being unfairly *maligned* in the press. ▪ I did not intend to *malign* [=*impugn*] his motives. ▪ They have given up their much-*maligned* [=widely criticized] attempt to reform tax policy.

[2]malign *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : causing or intended to cause harm ▪ He has used his power for *malign* [=*malevolent*] purposes.

ma•lig•nan•cy /məˈlɪgnənsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies**
1 [*noncount*] *medical* + *formal* : a malignant quality or state ▪ the *malignancy* of the tumor
2 [*count*] *medical* : a tumor that is malignant ▪ The test revealed a *malignancy* in the patient's chest.

ma•lig•nant /məˈlɪgnənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 *medical* : very serious and dangerous : tending or likely to grow and spread in a rapid and uncontrolled way that can cause death ▪ a *malignant* [=*cancerous*] tumor/growth ▪ a highly *malignant* form of cancer — opposite BENIGN
2 *formal* : very evil ▪ a powerful and *malignant* influence
– **ma•lig•nant•ly** *adv*

ma•lin•ger /məˈlɪŋgɚ/ *verb* **-gers**; **-gered**; **-ger•ing** [*no obj*] : to pretend to be sick or injured in order to avoid doing work ▪ His boss suspected him of *malingering* because of his frequent absences from work.
– **ma•lin•ger•er** /məˈlɪŋgɚɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

mall /ˈmɑ:l/ *noun, pl* **malls** [*count*]
1 : a large building or group of buildings containing stores of many different kinds and sizes ▪ They spent the afternoon shopping at the *mall*. — see also STRIP MALL
2 : a public area where people walk ▪ a pedestrian *mall*

mal•lard /ˈmælɚd/ *noun, pl* **mallard** *or* **mal•lards** [*count*] : a very common kind of duck

mal•lea•ble /ˈmælijəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 *technical* : capable of being stretched or bent into different shapes ▪ a *malleable* metal
2 *formal* : capable of being easily changed or influenced ▪ a *malleable* [=*flexible*] plan ▪ *malleable* young minds
– **mal•lea•bil•i•ty** /ˌmælijəˈbɪlətɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *malleability* of the metal

mal•let /ˈmælət/ *noun, pl* **-lets** [*count*]
1 : a hammer with a large usually wooden head
2 *sports* : a club used for hitting the ball in croquet or polo

mal•nour•ished /ˌmælˈnəɚɪʃt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not eating enough food or not eating enough healthy food : poorly nourished ▪ *malnourished* children

mal•nu•tri•tion /ˌmælnʊˈtrɪʃən, *Brit* ˌmælnjʊˈtrɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the unhealthy condition that results from not eating enough food or not eating enough healthy food : poor nutrition ▪ a program to help poor children suffering from *malnutrition*

mal•odor•ous /ˌmælˈoʊdərəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : having a bad smell ▪ a *malodorous* [=*smelly*] mixture of chemicals

mal•prac•tice /ˌmælˈpræktəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *law* : careless, wrong, or illegal actions by someone (such as a doctor) who is performing a professional duty ▪ a surgeon accused of *malpractice* ▪ Doctors need to have *malpractice* insurance to protect themselves against lawsuits.

malt /ˈmɔ:lt/ *noun, pl* **malts**
1 [*noncount*] : grain and especially barley that is soaked in water and used in making alcoholic drinks (such as beer and whiskey)
2 [*count*] *US, informal* : MALTED MILK ▪ a chocolate *malt*
3 [*count, noncount*] : MALT WHISKEY

[1]malt•ed /ˈmɔ:ltəd/ *adj, always used before a noun* : changed into malt ▪ *malted* grain/barley

[2]malted *noun, pl* **-eds** [*count*] *US, informal* : MALTED MILK ▪ ordered a hot dog and a chocolate *malted*

malted milk *noun, pl* ~ **milks** [*count, noncount*] *US* : a drink made by mixing a special powder of malted grains and dried milk into a liquid (such as milk) and usually adding ice cream and flavoring

malt liquor *noun, pl* ~ **-quors** [*count, noncount*] *US* : a type of beer that has a high amount of alcohol

mal•treat /ˌmælˈtri:t/ *verb* **-treats**; **-treat•ed**; **-treat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to treat (someone) in a rough or cruel way ▪ He claims that he was *maltreated* [=(more commonly) *mistreated*, *abused*] by the prison guards.
– **mal•treat•ment** /ˌmælˈtri:tmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*]

malt whiskey (*US*) *or Brit* **malt whisky** *noun, pl* ~ **-keys** [*count, noncount*] : whiskey made in Scotland from malted barley

mam /ˈmæm/ *noun, pl* **mams** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : a person's mother

ma•ma *or* **mam•ma** *also* **mom•ma** /ˈmɑ:mə/ *noun, pl* **-mas** [*count*] *informal* : a person's mother — used especially by young children ▪ Where's *mama*? ▪ Read me a story, *Mama*! — compare PAPA

mama's boy *noun, pl* ~ **boys** [*count*] *US, disapproving* : a boy or man who is seen as weak because he is controlled or protected too much by his mother

mam•bo /ˈmɑ:mboʊ, *Brit* ˈmæmbəʊ/ *noun, pl* **-bos**
1 [*count*] : a lively dance originally from Cuba ▪ They learned to dance the *mambo*.
2 [*count, noncount*] : the music for the mambo ▪ The band played a *mambo*.

mam•mal /ˈmæməl/ *noun, pl* **-mals** [*count*] : a type of animal that feeds milk to its young and that usually has hair or fur covering most of its skin ▪ Human beings, dogs, and cats are all *mammals*.

M

– **mam•ma•li•an** /məˈmeɪlijən/ *adj, technical* ▪ characteristics of the *mammalian* brain ▪ *mammalian* species

mam•ma•ry /ˈmæməri/ *adj, technical* : of or relating to the breasts ▪ *mammary* cells

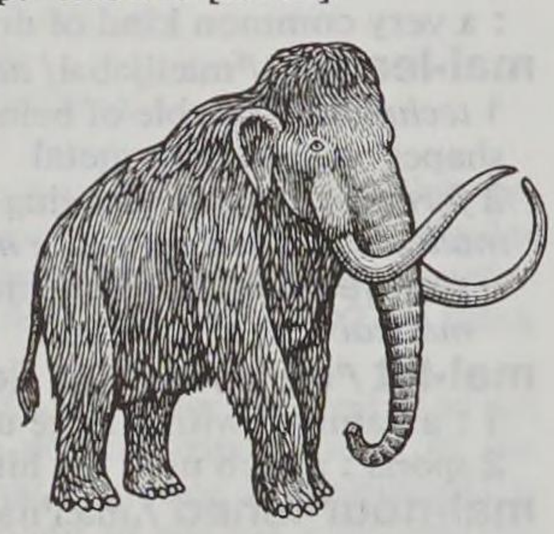
mammary gland *noun, pl* ~ **glands** [*count*] *technical* : a gland in a woman's breast or in a female animal that produces milk

mam•mo•gram /ˈmæməˌgræm/ *noun, pl* **-grams** [*count*] *medical* : a photograph of a woman's breasts made by X-rays ▪ She went to the hospital for her yearly *mammogram*.

– **mam•mog•ra•phy** /mæˈmɑːgrəfi/ *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]mam•moth /ˈmæməθ/ *noun, pl* **-moths** [*count*]

1 : a type of large, hairy elephant that lived in ancient times and that had very long tusks that curved upward



mammoth

2 : something that is very large ▪ The little business she started by herself has now become a *mammoth* [=*giant*] in the industry.

[2]mammoth *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very large ▪ a *mammoth* [=*huge, gigantic*] building ▪ Renovating the house is a *mammoth* undertaking.

[1]man /ˈmæn/ *noun, pl* **men** /ˈmɛn/

1 [*count*] : an adult male human being ▪ He was a shy boy, but he grew to be a strong and confident *man*. ▪ He's a grown *man* now. ▪ The movie is popular with *men* and women. ▪ He's a *man* of great talent. = He's a very talented *man*. ▪ a good/bad *man*

2 : a man or boy who shows the qualities (such as strength and courage) that men are traditionally supposed to have [*count*] Don't cry, little boy: ***be a man***! ▪ A few years in the army will ***make a (real) man (out) of*** you! [*noncount*] Are you *man* enough to meet the challenge?

3 : a woman's husband or boyfriend [*count*] Who's the new *man* in her life? = Who's her new *man*? [*noncount*] I now pronounce you *man* [=*husband*] and wife. — see also OLD MAN

4 a [*count*] : an individual human being : PERSON ▪ Time waits for no *man*. [=for no one] ▪ the differences between *men* [=*people*] and beasts/animals ▪ He believes that all *men* are created equal. **b** [*noncount*] : the human race ▪ prehistoric *man* ▪ It's not a fit night out for *man* or/nor beast. [=for people or animals] ▪ the problems facing ***modern man*** [=the human race in modern times] ✧ Senses 4a and 4b are now sometimes avoided because they are considered sexist.

5 [*count*] — used when you are talking to a man ▪ (*chiefly US, informal*) Hey, *man*, how are you? ▪ (*old-fashioned*) Pull yourself together, *man*! ▪ Okay, *men*, let's go out there and win! ▪ (*US, informal*) Hey, ***my man***! It's good to see you! ▪ (*chiefly Brit, old-fashioned*) ***My good man***, can you tell me where the railroad station is?

6 [*count*] : a male worker who goes to people's homes ▪ The furnace *man* came to repair the heater.

7 *men* [*plural*] : a group of male workers, soldiers, etc. ▪ The *men* have threatened to go on strike. ▪ He led his *men* into battle against overwhelming odds.

8 [*count*] **a** : a man who does a particular kind of work ▪ a medical/military *man* **b** : a man who has a specified job or position or who belongs to a specified category of worker — used in combination ▪ a council*man* ▪ Has the mail*man* come yet? ▪ He's a shrewd business*man*. **c** : a man who works for or represents a particular person or organization ▪ our *man* in Washington ▪ He spoke with the president's *man*.

9 [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a male servant — usually singular ▪ My *man* will show you to your room.

10 [*count*] **a** *somewhat old-fashioned* : a male student or former student at a college or university ▪ He's a Harvard *man*. **b** : a man who comes from or lives in a specified town, city, etc. — used chiefly by journalists ▪ One of the accident victims has been identified as a Boston *man*.

11 [*count*] : a man who likes something very much or who is known for some activity or interest ▪ I'm strictly a vanilla ice cream *man*. [=I'm a man who likes vanilla ice cream]

12 [*singular*] **a** : a person who can do what is needed ▪ If you need someone to help organize the files, ***I'm/he's/she's your man***! [=I'm/he's/she's the person you need for the job] **b** : the person someone (such as a police officer) is looking for ▪ He matches the description, but I don't think he's our *man*. ▪ a detective who always ***gets his man*** [=catches the criminal]

13 [*count*] : one of the pieces in a game like chess or checkers

a fine figure of a man see [1]FIGURE

as one man *old-fashioned, now usually used of a group of men* : as a group : all together ▪ The audience rose *as one man* [=everyone in the audience stood up] and cheered.

be/become your own man : to be or become a man who is not controlled by other people or who is able to support himself without the help of other people ▪ He left home and moved to the city to *become his own man*.

every man for himself — used to describe a situation in which people do not help each other and each person has to take care of himself or herself ▪ As soon as there was a crisis, it was *every man for himself*.

iron man see [2]IRON

man of action see ACTION

man of the hour see HOUR

man's best friend — used to refer to a dog or to dogs as a group ▪ She devotes her life to helping *man's best friend*.

poor man's see POOR

separate the men from the boys see [2]SEPARATE

the man *US, informal* **1** *or* ***the Man*** *somewhat old-fashioned* : the police ▪ He got in trouble with *the Man* and ended up in jail. **2** *or* ***the Man*** *also* ***The Man*** : the white people who are seen as having power in the U.S. : the white establishment ▪ He got a job working for *the Man*. **3** : a man who is admired or respected as a leader or as the best man in a particular field, sport, etc. ▪ The other players on the team all know that he's *the man*. ▪ You're *the man*! = (*very informal*) You *the man*! = (*very informal + humorous*) ***You da man***!

the man in the street *or Brit* ***the man on the Clapham omnibus*** : the ordinary and average person ▪ What does *the man in the street* think about it?

the odd man out see ODD

to a man — used to say that all the members in a group of men said, did, or thought the same thing ▪ He worried that some of his friends might object, but, *to a man*, they supported his decision. [=all of them supported his decision]

to the last man : until all the men in a group are killed, defeated, etc. ▪ They vowed to fight *to the last man*.

[2]man *interj, chiefly US, informal* — used to express excitement, surprise, etc. ▪ *Man*, what a game! ▪ Oh *man*, I can't believe she said that! ▪ *Man*, how much longer can this hot weather last?

[3]man *verb* **mans**; **manned**; **man•ning** [+ *obj*]

1 : to be the person who controls or is in charge of (something) ▪ He stocked shelves while I *manned* the cash register. ▪ We'll need someone to *man* the phones this evening. ▪ No one was *manning* the front desk.

2 : to place people at or on (something) to do work ▪ *man* the sails/lifeboats — see also MANNED

man–about–town /ˌmænəˌbaʊtˈtaʊn/ *noun* [*singular*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : a man who goes to many popular parties, clubs, etc.

man•a•cle /ˈmænɪkəl/ *noun, pl* **-a•cles** [*count*] : either one of a set of two metal rings designed to lock around a person's wrists or ankles — usually plural ▪ The prisoner was led into the courtroom in *manacles*.

– **manacle** /ˈmænɪkəl/ *verb* **-cles**; **-cled**; **-cling** [+ *obj*] ▪ The prisoner was *manacled* and led into the courtroom.

man•age /ˈmænɪʤ/ *verb* **-ag•es**; **-aged**; **-ag•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to have control of (something, such as a business, department, sports team, etc.) ▪ She *manages* [=*runs*] her family's bakery. ▪ The business is *managed* by the owner's daughter. ▪ The company is badly *managed*. ▪ When she *managed* the department, we never missed a deadline. **b** : to take care of and make decisions about (someone's time, money, etc.) ▪ He *manages* his own finances. ▪ You need to *manage* [=*use*] your time more wisely. **c** : to direct the professional career of (someone, such as an entertainer or athlete) ▪ an agency that *manages* entertainers — see also STAGE-MANAGE

2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to control the movements or actions of (something) ▪ She *manages* [=*handles*] her skis well. ▪ He is skillful in *managing* horses. : to keep (something) under your control ▪ He's not able to *manage* [=(more commonly) *control*] his emotions. ▪ This form of diabetes can be *managed* by diet. [=it can be controlled by eating a certain way] **b** : to

control the behavior of (a child, animal, etc.) ▪ She has difficulty *managing* [=*handling*] her young students.
3 [+ *obj*] : to use (something) carefully and without waste ▪ There's enough food if we *manage* it well. ▪ We need to do a better job of *managing* our natural resources.
4 a [*no obj*] : to be able to live or to do what is needed by using what you have even though you do not have much — often + *on* ▪ When he lost his job, we didn't know if we could *manage* [=*get by*] *on* just my salary. — often + *with* or *without* ▪ I wonder how they *manage with* so little income. ▪ We'll have to *manage with* just one car. ▪ This kind of plant can *manage* [=*survive*] *with* very little water. ▪ They'll have to *manage* [=*get by*] *without* presents this year. [=they'll have to accept that they are not getting presents this year] **b** : to succeed in doing (something) [+ *obj*] "We'll need to talk about this again. Can you *manage* a meeting next week?" ▪ With his ankle broken, he could only *manage* (taking) a few steps at a time. ▪ She wasn't feeling well, but she still *managed* a smile for the photographers. ▪ He's too weak to *manage* the stairs on his own. [=to go up/down the stairs on his own] — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ She never studies but always *manages to pass* her tests. ▪ He always *manages to win* somehow. ▪ Somehow, they've *managed to avoid* trouble. ▪ We were poor, but we still *managed to have* enough to eat. ▪ How'd they *manage to get away* with it? ▪ It was tough, but we *managed* not *to let* the secret out. ▪ Only a few passengers *managed to survive* the crash. ▪ These plants *manage to stay* alive with very little water. ▪ They couldn't get tickets, but we *managed to*. [*no obj*] I don't know how we ever *managed* without you. ▪ It's hard living alone, but somehow I *manage*. ▪ "Do you need help with that suitcase?" "No, thanks. I think I can *manage*."

man•age•able /ˈmænɪʤəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : easy to control or deal with ▪ We bought smaller, more *manageable* suitcases. ▪ They divided the students into three *manageable* groups. ▪ *manageable* and unmanageable problems ▪ The conditioner makes your hair more *manageable*.
– **man•age•abil•i•ty** /ˌmænɪʤəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

man•age•ment /ˈmænɪʤmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**
1 a [*noncount*] : the act or skill of controlling and making decisions about a business, department, sports team, etc. ▪ She's planning a career in (business) *management*. ▪ Business improved under the *management* of new owners. ▪ She's responsible for the day-to-day *management* [=*running*] of the hospital. ▪ a smart *management* decision ▪ We're using new *management* techniques/practices. **b** : the people who make decisions about a business, department, sports team, etc. [*noncount*] To save money, (the) *management* decided to reduce the size of the staff. ▪ *Management* and labor could not agree. ▪ He has a job in middle *management*. ▪ senior/top *management* ▪ (The) *Management* is planning to hire more workers. = (*Brit*) (The) *Management* are planning to hire more workers. ▪ The restaurant is now ***under new management***. [=is now controlled by different people] [*count*] The *managements* of several top corporations met yesterday.
2 [*noncount*] : the act or process of deciding how to use something ▪ He's extremely cautious when it comes to money *management*. [=he is careful about the way he uses money] ▪ time *management* ▪ a new system of water *management*
3 [*noncount*] : the act or process of controlling and dealing with something ▪ anger *management* ▪ crisis *management*

man•ag•er /ˈmænɪʤɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : someone who is in charge of a business, department, etc. ▪ I'd like to speak to the *manager*, please. ▪ He was promoted to *manager* last year. ▪ a sales/bank/personnel *manager* ▪ The team's ***general manager*** acquired five new players for the upcoming season. — see also STAGE MANAGER
2 : someone who directs the training and performance of a sports team; *especially, US* : a person who directs a baseball team ▪ The *manager* decided to change pitchers in the eighth inning.
3 : someone who directs the professional career of an entertainer or athlete ▪ The actress recently fired her *manager*.
4 : someone who decides how to use something ▪ She's a bad *manager* of her time/money.

man•ag•er•ess /ˈmænɪʤərəs/ *noun, pl* **-ess•es** [*count*] *Brit* : a woman who is in charge of a business, shop, etc.

man•a•ge•ri•al /ˌmænəˈʤirijəl/ *adj*
1 : relating to the skill or process of controlling and making decisions about a business or organization ▪ They lack the *managerial* experience needed for the job. ▪ a change in (their) *managerial* practices
2 : of or relating to a manager or group of managers ▪ *managerial* positions ▪ a *managerial* team

managing director *noun, pl* ~ **-tors** [*count*] : someone who is in charge of a large company or organization

managing editor *noun, pl* ~ **-tors** [*count*] : an editor who is in charge of the editorial activities of a newspaper, magazine, etc.

man•a•tee /ˈmænəˌti:/ *noun, pl* **-tees** [*count*] : a large animal that lives in warm waters and eats plants

man•da•rin /ˈmændərən/ *noun, pl* **-rins**
1 [*count*] : a small type of orange — called also *mandarin orange*
2 [*count*] : a public official in China in the past
3 ***Mandarin*** [*noncount*] : the official language of China

[1]man•date /ˈmænˌdeɪt/ *noun, pl* **-dates** [*count*] *formal*
1 : an official order to do something ▪ Royal *mandates* must be obeyed. ▪ They carried out the governor's *mandate* to build more roads.
2 : the power to act that voters give to their elected leaders ▪ He won the election so convincingly that he believed he had been given a *mandate* for change/reform. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ He believed he had been given a *mandate* (from the people) *to implement* his policies. ▪ There is no *mandate to raise* taxes.

[2]mandate *verb* **-dates**; **-dat•ed**; **-dat•ing** [+ *obj*] *chiefly US, formal*
1 : to officially demand or require (something) ▪ Ours was the first state to *mandate* [=*order*] the change. ▪ The law *mandates* that every car have seat belts. — often used as *(be) mandated* ▪ Drug tests have *been mandated* by the government. ▪ a *mandated* [=*required, mandatory*] drug test
2 : to officially give (someone) the power to do something ▪ He won the election so convincingly that he believed the people had *mandated* him to carry out his policies.

man•da•to•ry /ˈmændəˌtori, *Brit* ˈmændətri/ *adj* : required by a law or rule ▪ This meeting is *mandatory* for all employees. [=all employees must go to this meeting] ▪ The *mandatory* fine for littering is $200. [=everyone caught littering must pay $200] ▪ a *mandatory* retirement age [=an age at which workers are required to retire] ▪ a *mandatory* drug test

man•di•ble /ˈmændəbəl/ *noun, pl* **-di•bles** [*count*]
1 : JAWBONE
2 : either the upper or lower part of a bird's beak
3 : a part of an insect's mouth that looks like a jaw and is often used for biting things

man•do•lin /ˌmændəˈlɪn/ *noun, pl* **-lins** [*count*] : a small musical instrument that has a long neck, a body that is shaped like a pear, and usually four pairs of strings

mane /ˈmeɪn/ *noun, pl* **manes** [*count*]
1 : long, thick hair growing from the neck of a horse or around the neck of a lion — see picture at HORSE
2 *informal* : long, thick hair on a person's head ▪ an actor with a thick *mane* of silver hair

man–eat•er /ˈmænˌi:tɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : an animal (such as a shark or a tiger) that kills and eats people
2 *humorous* : an attractive woman who has many lovers
– **man–eat•ing** /ˈmænˌi:tɪŋ/ *adj* ▪ *man-eating* tigers ▪ a *man-eating* shark

[1]ma•neu•ver (*US*) *or Brit* **ma•noeu•vre** /məˈnu:vɚ/ *noun, pl* **-vers**
1 : a clever or skillful action or movement [*count*] With a quick *maneuver*, she avoided an accident. ▪ acrobats performing dangerous *maneuvers* ▪ Through a series of legal *maneuvers*, the defense lawyer kept her client out of jail. [*noncount*] The strict requirements left us very little ***room for maneuver***. [=opportunity to make changes or to do things differently in order to produce a better result]
2 a [*count*] : a planned movement of soldiers or ships ▪ He led his troops in a well-planned *maneuver*. **b** ***maneuvers*** [*plural*] : military activities that are done for training ▪ To prepare for war, the army is performing/conducting *maneuvers* off the coast. ▪ The army is ***on maneuvers***.

[2]maneuver (*US*) *or Brit* **manoeuvre** *verb* **-vers**; **-vered**; **-ver•ing**
1 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to move (something or someone) in a careful and usually skillful way [+ *obj*] She *maneuvered* her car into the tiny garage. ▪ It took seven people to *maneuver* the tiger out of its cage. ▪ We had a hard time *maneuvering* our furniture through the doorway. [*no obj*] The giant ships *maneuvered* into their docks. ▪ The vehicle easily *maneuvered* through rocky terrain. ▪ They held

hands while *maneuvering* through the crowd.

2 : to do something in an effort to get an advantage, get out of a difficult situation, etc. [*no obj*]The companies are *maneuvering* for position in the limited market. ▪ The strict requirements left us very little ***room to maneuver*** [=opportunity to make changes or to do things differently in order to produce a better result] [+ *obj*]Somehow, she always manages to *maneuver* herself out of difficult situations. ▪ He *maneuvered* his way into her heart. [=he did things to make her love him] — see also OUTMANEUVER

3 : to move (soldiers, ships, etc.) where they are needed for battle [+ *obj*]We *maneuvered* our troops to the south. [*no obj*]The opposing forces *maneuvered* quickly.

– maneuvering *noun, pl* **-ings** [*noncount*]It took a lot of legal *maneuvering* for the defense lawyer to keep her client out of jail. [*count*]political *maneuverings*

ma•neu•ver•able *(US) or Brit* **ma•noeu•vra•ble** /məˈnuːvərəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] **:** able to be moved quickly, easily, or in small spaces ▪ The new ships are faster and more *maneuverable*. ▪ a highly *maneuverable* airplane

– ma•neu•ver•abil•i•ty *(US) or Brit* **ma•noeu•vra•bil•i•ty** /məˌnuːvərəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ They've improved the ship's speed and *maneuverability*.

man•ful•ly /ˈmænfəli/ *adv* **:** in a brave and strong way **:** in a manly way ▪ He *manfully* accepted the challenge. ▪ He walked *manfully* into the courtroom.

man•ga•nese /ˈmæŋgəˌniːz/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** a grayish-white usually hard metal that breaks easily

mange /ˈmeɪnʤ/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** a skin disease of animals (such as cats and dogs) and sometimes people that causes itching and loss of hair

man•ger /ˈmeɪnʤɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*] **:** an open box in which food for farm animals is placed

mange•tout /ˌmɑːnʒˈtuː/ *noun, pl* **mangetout** *or* **mange-touts** [*count*] *Brit* **:** SNOW PEA

[1]man•gle /ˈmæŋgəl/ *verb* **man•gles; man•gled; man•gling** [+ *obj*]

1 : to injure or damage (something or someone) severely by cutting, tearing, or crushing ▪ His leg had been *mangled* by an explosion. ▪ a *mangled* piece of metal

2 : to do (something) badly **:** to ruin (something) because of carelessness or a lack of skill ▪ The newspaper *mangled* the story. [=it did not report the story correctly] ▪ He *mangled* [=*botched*] the speech. ▪ They *mangled* my favorite song!

[2]mangle *noun, pl* **mangles** [*count*] **:** an old-fashioned machine used to squeeze water out of wet clothes after they have been washed

man•go /ˈmæŋgoʊ/ *noun, pl* **man•goes** *also* **man•gos** [*count*] **:** a juicy tropical fruit that has firm yellow and red skin and a hard seed at its center — see color picture on page C5

man•grove /ˈmænˌgroʊv/ *noun, pl* **-groves** [*count*] **:** a tropical tree that has roots which grow from its branches and that grows in swamps or shallow salt water ▪ a *mangrove* swamp

mangy /ˈmeɪnʤi/ *adj* **mang•i•er; -est**

1 *of an animal* **:** having a skin disease that causes itching and loss of hair **:** suffering from mange ▪ a *mangy* dog

2 : having thin or bare spots ▪ She finally threw out that *mangy* [=*shabby*] old rug. ▪ a *mangy* beard

man•han•dle /ˈmænˌhændl̩/ *verb* **-han•dles; -han•dled; -han•dling** [+ *obj*]

1 : to move (something) by using rough force ▪ They *manhandled* the heavy boxes onto the truck. ▪ She *manhandled* the posts into place.

2 : to treat (someone) in a rough or physically harmful way ▪ He was *manhandling* the boy. ▪ He says he was *manhandled* by the police.

man•hole /ˈmænˌhoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-holes** [*count*] **:** a covered hole in a street that a person can go down into to do work under the street

man•hood /ˈmænˌhʊd/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] **:** the qualities (such as strength and courage) that are expected in a man ▪ He took the comment as a challenge to his *manhood*. ▪ Boxing was a way for him to ***prove his manhood*** [=to prove that he was a strong/brave man]

2 [*noncount*] **:** the state or condition of being an adult man and no longer a boy ▪ He grew from boyhood to *manhood* in a small southern town. ▪ In his early *manhood* [=when he was a young man] he decided to become a doctor.

3 [*noncount*] **:** adult men ▪ the *manhood* of a nation

4 [*singular*] *literary + humorous* **:** a man's penis ▪ He wore no clothing except a cloth that hid his *manhood*.

man–hour /ˈmænˈaʊɚ/ *noun, pl* **-hours** [*count*] **:** an hour of work done by one worker ▪ The job will take at least 300 *man-hours* and cost about $20 per *man-hour*.

man•hunt /ˈmænˌhʌnt/ *noun, pl* **-hunts** [*count*] **:** an organized search for a person and especially for a criminal ▪ After several days of searching, the sheriff called off the *manhunt*. ▪ The FBI launched a *manhunt* to find the kidnappers.

ma•nia /ˈmeɪnijə/ *noun, pl* **-nias**

1 : mental illness in which a person becomes very emotional or excited [*noncount*]She would typically experience a period of *mania* and then suddenly become deeply depressed. [*count*]patients affected by *manias*

2 : extreme enthusiasm for something that is usually shared by many people [*count*] — usually singular ▪ The band was part of the early rock-and-roll *mania*. [=*craze*] ▪ The city's sports *mania* is very well-known. — often + *for* ▪ He had a *mania for* cleanliness. [*noncount*] The entire city has been gripped by baseball *mania*.

ma•ni•ac /ˈmeɪniˌæk/ *noun, pl* **-acs** [*count*]

1 : someone who is violent and mentally ill ▪ The movie he rented was about a *maniac* [=*madman, lunatic*] who goes on a murderous rampage. ▪ a homicidal *maniac*

2 *informal* **:** a person who behaves in a very wild way ▪ He's a complete *maniac* when he's playing football. ▪ She drives ***like a maniac*** [=she drives in a very reckless and dangerous way]

3 *informal* **:** a person who is extremely enthusiastic about something ▪ His friends are all sports *maniacs*. [=*fanatics*] ▪ a movie *maniac* [=*freak*]

– maniac *adj, always used before a noun* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ *maniac* killers/fans **– ma•ni•a•cal** /məˈnajəkəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ a *maniacal* killer/fan ▪ She let out a *maniacal* laugh. ▪ *maniacal* sports fans **– ma•ni•a•cal•ly** /məˈnajəkli/ *adv* ▪ laughing *maniacally*

man•ic /ˈmænɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : having or relating to a mental illness that causes someone to become very excited or emotional ▪ The patient has a *manic* personality. = The patient is *manic*. ▪ a *manic* state/mood

2 : very excited, energetic, or emotional ▪ a *manic* sense of humor ▪ *manic* behavior/fans

– man•i•cal•ly /ˈmænɪkli/ *adv*

manic depression *noun* [*noncount*] **:** a mental illness in which a person experiences periods of strong excitement and happiness followed by periods of sadness and depression — called also *bipolar disorder, manic-depressive illness*

man•ic–de•press•ive /ˌmænɪkdɪˈprɛsɪv/ *noun, pl* **-ives** [*count*] **:** someone who is affected by manic depression ▪ Her brother is a *manic-depressive*.

– manic–depressive *adj* ▪ He takes medicine to control his *manic-depressive* behavior. ▪ a *manic-depressive* patient

man•i•cot•ti /ˌmænəˈkɑːti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* **:** a type of pasta in the shape of tubes that are usually filled with meat or cheese and covered with tomato sauce

[1]man•i•cure /ˈmænəˌkjɚ/ *noun, pl* **-cures** [*count*] **:** a treatment to improve the appearance and health of the hands and fingernails ▪ She gets a *manicure* every week or so. — compare PEDICURE

[2]manicure *verb* **-cures; -cured; -cur•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to give a beauty treatment to (someone's hands and fingernails) **:** to give a manicure to (someone's hands and fingernails) ▪ She *manicured* her nails.

2 : to make (something, such as a lawn or a garden) look neat, smooth, and attractive ▪ She spends her weekends working in her garden and *manicuring* her lawn.

– manicured *adj* ▪ *manicured* hands ▪ carefully *manicured* gardens ▪ a well-*manicured* lawn

man•i•cur•ist /ˈmænəˌkjɚɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] **:** a person who does beauty treatments for the hands and fingernails **:** a person who gives manicures

[1]man•i•fest /ˈmænəˌfɛst/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal*

1 : able to be seen **:** clearly shown or visible ▪ Their sadness was *manifest* in their faces. ▪ His love for literature is *manifest* in his large library. ▪ There was *manifest* confusion in the streets.

2 : easy to understand or recognize ▪ The truth was *manifest* [=(more commonly) *obvious*] to everyone but me. ▪ a *manifest* injustice

– man•i•fest•ly *adv* ▪ The decision was *manifestly* [=*clearly, obviously*] unjust.

[2]manifest *verb* **-fests; -fest•ed; -fest•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* **:** to show (something) clearly ▪ Both sides have *manifested* a

stubborn unwillingness to compromise. ▪ Their religious beliefs are *manifested* in every aspect of their lives. ▪ Love *manifests* [=*reveals*] itself in many different ways. [=love appears in many ways] ▪ Her behavior problems began *manifesting* themselves soon after she left home.

man•i•fes•ta•tion /ˌmænəfəˈsteɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *formal*
1 : a sign that shows something clearly — usually + *of* ▪ The first *manifestations of* her behavior problems occurred soon after she left home. ▪ Her work with the poor was a *manifestation* [=*indication*] *of* her compassionate nature.
2 : one of the forms that something has when it appears or occurs ▪ Hate in all its *manifestations* [=*forms*] is wrong.
3 : an occurrence in which the ghost or spirit of a dead person appears ▪ ghostly *manifestations*

manifest destiny *or* **Manifest Destiny** *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* **:** a future event that is sure to happen **:** a destiny that can be clearly seen and that cannot be changed ▪ They were living in a time when expansion to the Pacific was regarded by many people as the *Manifest Destiny* of the United States.

man•i•fes•to /ˌmænəˈfɛstoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-tos** *or* **-toes** [*count*] **:** a written statement that describes the policies, goals, and opinions of a person or group ▪ The group's *manifesto* focused on helping the poor and stopping violence. ▪ a political party's *manifesto*

[1]man•i•fold /ˈmænəˌfoʊld/ *adj, formal* **:** many and various ▪ the country's *manifold* problems ▪ The benefits of this approach are *manifold*.

[2]manifold *noun, pl* **-folds** [*count*] *technical* **:** a part of an engine that connects different pipes for moving fuel and air into the engine or for carrying gases away from the engine ▪ an ***intake manifold*** [=a manifold that brings fuel and air into an engine] ▪ an ***exhaust manifold*** — see picture at CAR

man•i•kin *also* **man•ni•kin** /ˈmænɪkən/ *noun, pl* **-kins** [*count*] **:** MANNEQUIN

ma•nila /məˈnɪlə/ *adj* **:** made of strong, light brown paper ▪ a *manila* folder ▪ *manila* envelopes

ma•nip•u•late /məˈnɪpjəˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates; -lat•ed; -lat•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 a : to move or control (something) with your hands or by using a machine ▪ *manipulate* a pencil ▪ The baby is learning to *manipulate* blocks. ▪ *manipulate* a computer mouse ▪ The mechanical arms are *manipulated* by a computer. **b** *medical* **:** to move (muscles and bones) with your hands as a form of treatment ▪ The doctor *manipulated* my back/spine.
2 : to use or change (numbers, information, etc.) in a skillful way or for a particular purpose ▪ The program was designed to organize and *manipulate* large amounts of data. ▪ He's always been good at *manipulating* numbers in his head. ▪ As part of the experiment, students *manipulated* light and temperature to see how it affected the plants.
3 *usually disapproving* **a :** to deal with or control (someone or something) in a clever and usually unfair or selfish way ▪ She knows how to *manipulate* her parents to get what she wants. ▪ He felt that he had been *manipulated* by the people he trusted most. ▪ The editorial was a blatant attempt to *manipulate* public opinion. **b :** to change (something) in an unfair or selfish way ▪ He's accused of trying to *manipulate* the price of the stock. ▪ The company *manipulated* its accounts to exaggerate its profits.

– ma•nip•u•la•tion /məˌnɪpjəˈleɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] price *manipulations* [*noncount*] trying to control the election through blatant *manipulation* of public opinion ▪ her shameless *manipulation* of her parents

ma•nip•u•la•tive /məˈnɪpjəˌleɪtɪv, məˈnɪpjələtɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *usually disapproving* **:** using or controlling other people in a clever and often unfair or selfish way ▪ a clever and *manipulative* salesman ▪ *manipulative* behavior

ma•nip•u•la•tor /məˈnɪpjəˌleɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] *often disapproving* **:** a person who uses or controls other people in a clever and often unfair or selfish way **:** a manipulative person ▪ He said she was a clever political *manipulator*.

man•kind /ˈmænˈkaɪnd/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** all people thought of as one group **:** HUMANKIND ▪ All of *mankind* will benefit from this new technology. ▪ We have seen the same pattern throughout the history of *mankind*. — compare WOMANKIND

man•ky /ˈmæŋki/ *adj* **man•ki•er; -est** *Brit, informal* **:** dirty and unattractive ▪ a *manky* old dog ▪ *manky* clothing

man•ly /ˈmænli/ *adj* **man•li•er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*] **:** having or showing qualities (such as strength or courage) that are expected in a man ▪ He wasn't *manly* enough to fight. ▪ a *manly* competitor ▪ He has a deep, *manly* voice.

– man•li•ness *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a test of his *manliness* [=*manhood*]

man–made /ˈmænˈmeɪd/ *adj* **:** made by people rather than by nature ▪ The government flooded the valley to create a *man-made* lake. ▪ She preferred wearing cotton to *man-made* [=*synthetic*] fabrics. ▪ *man-made* building materials

man•na /ˈmænə/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : food which according to the Bible was supplied by a miracle to the Israelites after they escaped from Egypt
2 : something needed that is received unexpectedly ▪ Your generous gift was ***manna from heaven***.

manned /ˈmænd/ *adj* **:** carrying or done by a person ▪ *manned* spaceflight ▪ a *manned* mission to the moon — opposite UNMANNED

man•ne•quin /ˈmænɪkən/ *noun, pl* **-quins** [*count*] **:** a figure shaped like a human body that is used for making or displaying clothes

man•ner /ˈmænɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ners**
1 [*singular*] *somewhat formal* **:** the way that something is done or happens ▪ She has a very forceful *manner* of speaking. ▪ I objected to the *manner* in which the decision was made. — often used after *in* ▪ Continue stirring *in* this *manner* until the sauce thickens. ▪ *In* this *manner*, we were able to save enough money for a new car. ▪ *In* what *manner* was the data collected? [=how was the data collected?] ▪ We worked *in* a quick *manner*. [=we worked quickly] ▪ She taught her class *in* an informal *manner*. ▪ He always begins his stories *in* the same *manner*. ▪ We were allowed to spend the money *in* any *manner* we wanted.
2 a [*count*] **:** the way that a person normally behaves especially while with other people — usually singular ▪ He had a gentle *manner* (about him). ▪ He listened patiently to his children, as was his *manner*. ▪ It was her energetic and friendly *manner* that got her the job. — see also BEDSIDE MANNER
b *manners* [*plural*] **:** behavior while with other people ▪ His children have excellent *manners*. [=his children behave very well] ▪ It's ***bad manners*** [=it is impolite] to talk with your mouth full. **c *manners*** [*plural*] **:** knowledge of how to behave politely while with other people ▪ Some people have no *manners*. ▪ Someone should teach you some *manners*! ▪ He ***forgot his manners*** and reached across the table for the salt.
✧ To ***remember/mind your manners*** is to behave in a polite and proper way. ▪ *"Mind your manners,"* Mom said sternly, "and thank your uncle for the nice gifts." — see also TABLE MANNERS
3 [*singular*] **:** an artistic style or method ▪ He painted this picture in his early *manner*. — often used in the phrase ***in/after the manner of*** ▪ She wrote *after the manner of* [=in the style of] her favorite poet. ▪ This church was built *in the manner of* the English Gothic style.
all manner of **:** all kinds or sorts of (things or people) ▪ The store sells *all manner of* musical instruments. ▪ *All manner of* people come to the city.
in a manner of speaking — used to say that a statement is true or accurate in a certain way even if it is not literally or completely true ▪ His retirement was, *in a manner of speaking*, the beginning of his real career. ▪ After the storm destroyed their house, they were, *in a manner of speaking* [=*so to speak, as it were*], lost at sea. [=they felt lost and confused after their house was destroyed]
not by any manner of means see MEANS
to the manner born **:** suited to a particular position, role, or status in a way that seems very natural ▪ He had never been on a boat before, but he walked along the deck as if *to the manner born*.
what manner of *old-fashioned + literary* **:** what kind or sort of ▪ *What manner of* person could have committed such a crime? ▪ *What manner of* woman is she to have done something like that?

man•nered /ˈmænɚd/ *adj*
1 : behaving in a certain way — used in combination ▪ He was a mild-*mannered* [=*gentle*] man who rarely became angry. ▪ well-*mannered* [=well-behaved] children
2 [*more ~; most ~*] *disapproving* **:** formal in a way that is intended to impress other people ▪ He had a very *mannered* [=*unnatural*] way of speaking.

man•ner•ism /ˈmænəˌrɪzəm/ *noun, pl* **-isms** [*count*] **:** a person's particular way of talking or moving ▪ The actor can mimic the President's *mannerisms* perfectly.

man•ner•ly /ˈmænɚli/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal + literary* **:** behaving politely while with other people **:** showing good

manners▪ When he was a child, he was quiet and *mannerly*. ▪ a *mannerly* young man

man•nish /ˈmænɪʃ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : suitable for or typical of a man rather than a woman : not feminine▪ She was wearing a hat and *mannish* clothing. ▪ She had a deep and rather *mannish* voice.

– **man•nish•ly** *adv* – **man•nish•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

ma•no a ma•no /ˌmɑːnoʊɑˈmɑːnoʊ/ *adv* — used to describe a situation in which two people directly compete, fight, or argue with each other▪ They fought *mano a mano*. ▪ Tomorrow night the candidates (will) ***go mano a mano*** [=compete against each other] in the first of two debates. ✧ *Mano a mano* comes from a Spanish phrase that means "hand to hand."

manoeuvre, manoeuvrable *Brit spellings of* MANEUVER, MANEUVERABLE

man of God *noun, pl* **men of God** [*count*] *formal* : a man who is a priest or minister

man of letters *noun, pl* **men of letters** [*count*] : a man who writes or who knows a lot about novels, poems, etc. : a literary man

man of straw *noun, pl* **men of straw** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : STRAW MAN

man of the cloth *noun, pl* **men of the cloth** [*count*] *formal + old-fashioned* : a man who is a priest or minister

man of the house *noun*

the man of the house : the male family member who has the most responsibility for taking care of and making decisions about the household▪ When his father died, John became *the man of the house* even though he was only 18.

man of the people *noun*

a man of the people : a man (such as a politician) who understands and is liked by ordinary people

man of the world *noun, pl* **men of the world** [*count*] : a man who has had many experiences and who is not shocked by things that may be shocking to other people

man–of–war /ˌmænəvˈwoɚ/ *noun, pl* **men–of–war** /ˌmɛnəvˈwoɚ/ [*count*] : a ship that has many weapons and is used for war

man•or /ˈmænɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ors** [*count*]

1 : a large country house on a large piece of land

2 *Brit, informal* : the area or section of a city that a particular group of police officers are responsible for

to the manor born : born into a wealthy family that has a high social status

– **ma•no•ri•al** /məˈnorijəl/ *adj* ▪ *manorial* landowners/estates

man•pow•er /ˈmænˌpawɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the number of people who are available to work▪ Currently we are experiencing a shortage of *manpower*. ▪ military *manpower*

man•qué /mɑnˈkeɪ, *Brit* ˈmɒŋkeɪ/ *adj, always used after a noun, formal* — used to describe what a person could or should have been but never was▪ He works as a cook but thinks of himself as a poet *manqué*. ▪ an artist *manqué*

manse /ˈmæns/ *noun, pl* **mans•es** [*count*]

1 : the house of a minister

2 : a large and impressive house : MANSION

man•ser•vant /ˈmænˌsɚvənt/ *noun, pl* **menservants** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a male servant ▪ *menservants* and maidservants

man•sion /ˈmænʃən/ *noun, pl* **-sions** [*count*] : a large and impressive house : the large house of a wealthy person▪ a *mansion* with 10 bedrooms and an indoor swimming pool

man–sized /ˈmænˌsaɪzd/ *also* **man–size** /ˈmænˌsaɪz/ *adj* : large and suitable for or typical of a man ▪ a *man-sized* sandwich ▪ his *man-sized* appetite ▪ a *man-size* effort ▪ This is a *man-sized* job.

man•slaugh•ter /ˈmænˌslɑːtɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *law* : the crime of killing a person without intending to do so▪ She was convicted of *manslaughter* for driving while drunk and killing three people.

man's man *noun* [*singular*] : a man who is liked and admired by other men — compare LADIES' MAN

man•tel /ˈmæntl̩/ *noun, pl* **-tels** [*count*] *chiefly US* : the shelf above a fireplace — see picture at LIVING ROOM

man•tel•piece /ˈmæntl̩ˌpiːs/ *noun, pl* **-piec•es** [*count*]

1 : the shelf above a fireplace and the decorative pieces on the sides of the fireplace

2 : MANTEL

man•tis /ˈmæntəs/ *noun, pl* **man•tis•es** *or* **man•tes** /ˈmænˌtiːz/ [*count*] : PRAYING MANTIS

[1]man•tle /ˈmænt|/ *noun, pl* **man•tles** [*count*]

1 : a loose piece of clothing without sleeves that was worn over other clothes especially in the past : CLOAK

2 *literary* : something that covers or surrounds something else — + *of*▪ The ground was covered/cloaked in a *mantle of* leaves. ▪ mountains blanketed/wrapped in a *mantle of* snow ▪ A *mantle of* secrecy surrounded the family's past. [=the family's past was kept secret]

3 *formal* : the position of someone who has responsibility or authority▪ He ***took on the mantle of*** director. [=he took on the job of being the director] ▪ She ***accepted/assumed the mantle of*** leadership.

4 *technical* : the middle layer of the Earth that is between the top crust and the inner core

[2]mantle *verb* **mantles; man•tled; man•tling** [+ *obj*] *formal + literary* : to cover or surround (something) — usually used as *(be) mantled*▪ The mountains *were mantled* with/in snow.

man–to–man /ˈmæntəˈmæn/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* : happening between two men — used to describe speech between men that is honest, open, and informal▪ We need to have a *man-to-man* talk. ▪ a *man-to-man* discussion

2 *chiefly US, sports* : of or relating to a way of playing defense in football, basketball, etc., in which each player on the defense is supposed to stop a particular player on the offense ▪ They were playing a *man-to-man* defense. ▪ *man-to-man* coverage

– **man–to–man** *adv* ▪ talking *man-to-man* ▪ The defense was playing *man-to-man*.

man•tra /ˈmɑːntrə, *Brit* ˈmæntrə/ *noun, pl* **-tras** [*count*]

1 : a sound, word, or phrase that is repeated by someone who is praying or meditating

2 : a word or phrase that is repeated often or that expresses someone's basic beliefs ▪ a businessman whose *mantra* is "bigger is better"

[1]man•u•al /ˈmænjəwəl/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : doing or involving hard physical work▪ low-paid *manual* workers/laborers ▪ She spent the summer doing *manual* labor on her uncle's farm.

2 : of or relating to using the hands▪ He has quite a bit of *manual* dexterity. [=skill and ease in using his hands] ▪ *manual* skill

3 : operated or controlled with the hands or by a person▪ I can't drive her car because it has a ***manual transmission*** instead of an automatic transmission. [=it has a system for changing gears that has to be operated by the driver] : operated only with the hands and without electric power▪ He has a collection of old-fashioned *manual* typewriters.

– **man•u•al•ly** *adv* ▪ *manually* operated machinery

[2]manual *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*]

1 : a small book that gives useful information about something : HANDBOOK▪ Here's the owner's *manual* of your new car. ▪ The computer program comes with a user's *manual*. ▪ We lost the instruction *manual* and couldn't put our bikes together. ▪ Please refer to the training/employee *manual* if you have any questions about your job.

2 : a vehicle that has a system for changing gears that has to be operated by the driver : a car with a manual transmission ▪ Is your car a *manual* or an automatic?

[1]man•u•fac•ture /ˌmænjəˈfæktʃɚ/ *verb* **-tures; -tured; -tur•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (something) usually in large amounts by using machines▪ materials used in *manufacturing* cars/computers ▪ a company that *manufactures* wool and cotton clothing

2 : to create (something, such as a false story or explanation) by using your imagination often in order to trick or deceive someone▪ He *manufactured* [=*fabricated, invented*] a story/lie/falsehood in order to get out of trouble.

[2]manufacture *noun* [*noncount*] : the process of making products especially with machines in factories ▪ materials used in the *manufacture* of cars/computers ▪ We're developing new methods of paper *manufacture*.

man•u•fac•tur•er /ˌmænjəˈfæktʃɚɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a company that makes a product▪ Follow the instructions recommended by the *manufacturer*. ▪ They are one of the country's leading *manufacturers* of children's clothing. ▪ car *manufacturers*

man•u•fac•tur•ing /ˌmænjəˈfæktʃərɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the industry or business of making products especially with machines in factories▪ *Manufacturing* is central to the economy of the country. ▪ They've created new jobs in *manufacturing*.

ma•nure /məˈnuɚ, *Brit* məˈnjʊə/ *noun, pl* **-nures** : solid waste from farm animals that is used to make soil better for growing plants [*noncount*] a bag of cow *manure* [*count*] fertilizers made from animal *manures*

man•u•script /ˈmænjəˌskrɪpt/ *noun, pl* **-scripts** : the original copy of a play, book, piece of music, etc., before it has been printed [*count*] The library owns the author's original *manuscript*. ▪ a copy of the composer's *manuscript* [*noncount*] She read the book ***in manuscript***. [=she read the manuscript of the book]

[1]many /ˈmɛni/ *adj* — used to refer to a large number of things or people ▪ She worked hard for *many* years. ▪ They were one of the *many, many* families that came to watch the parade. ▪ Gardening is one of her very *many* interests. ▪ They talked about the *many* benefits of learning English. ▪ You can never have too *many* friends. ▪ Some people will come, but ***many more*** people will not. ▪ A ***great/good many*** people [=very many people] did not survive. — often used in negative statements ▪ We don't have *many* choices. [=we have few choices] ▪ There weren't *many* people at the party.

as many — used to talk about or compare amounts ▪ She read *as many* books as she could. [=she read the largest number of books possible] ▪ She read three times *as many* books as he did. [=she read three times more books than he did] ▪ We saw three plays in *as many* days. [=we saw three plays in three days] ▪ She wrote five books in *as many* years.

how many — used to ask or talk about an amount ▪ *How many* people were there? ▪ I was surprised by *how many* people were there. ▪ ***How many times*** [=how often] do I have to tell you to lock the door?

[2]many *pronoun* : a large number of people or things ▪ Some people will come, but *many* [=many people] will not. ▪ The medicine has helped *many* with the disease. ▪ *Many* of his friends never went to college. ▪ I know some of the people here, but not (very) *many* of them. ▪ Far/All too *many* have died in this war. ▪ A lot of people have tried to climb the mountain, but a ***great/good many*** of them have failed. ▪ I wanted a dozen, but they didn't have ***that many***. = They didn't have ***as many as that***. [=they had fewer than a dozen]

as many as — used to suggest that a number or amount is surprisingly large ▪ She read *as many as* 60 books! ▪ *As many as* 60 students competed for the prize. ▪ They lost by *as many as* 20 points.

many a/an *formal + literary* — used with a singular noun to refer to a large number of things or people ▪ It remained a mystery for *many a* year. [=for many years] ▪ I've been there *many a* time. [=many times] ▪ *Many a* tale was told. [=many tales were told] ▪ *Many an* answer [=many answers] can be found in this book. ▪ *Many a* man has tried [=many men have tried] but few men have succeeded.

many's the *formal + literary* — used to say that something is common or has happened often ▪ *Many's the* day we have spent together. [=we have spent many days together] ▪ ***Many's the time*** I've been there. [=I've been there many times]

the many : the great majority of people ▪ policies that help the privileged few at the expense of *the many*

Mao•ri /ˈmaʊri/ *noun, pl* **-ris**
1 [*count*] : a member of the original people living in New Zealand
2 [*noncount*] : the language of the Maori people
– **Maori** *adj* ▪ *Maori* culture

[1]map /ˈmæp/ *noun, pl* **maps** [*count*]
1 : a picture or chart that shows the rivers, mountains, streets, etc., in a particular area ▪ a *map* of the country ▪ different *maps* of the world ▪ a road/street *map* [=a map showing the roads/streets of an area] ▪ "Can you find where we are on the *map*?" "Sorry: I'm no good at reading *maps*." ▪ "How do I get to the station?" "Here, let me draw you a *map*." — see also RELIEF MAP
2 : a picture or chart that shows the different parts of something ▪ a *map* of the brain

all over the map *US, informal* : not staying the same : characterized by frequent and extreme changes ▪ Prices have been *all over the map*.

put (something or someone) on the map : to make (a place, a person, etc.) famous or well-known ▪ The story has *put our little town on the map*. ▪ The success of his first album really *put him on the map* in the music industry.

[2]map *verb* **maps; mapped; map•ping** [+ *obj*]
1 : to make a map of (something) ▪ He *mapped* the stars. ▪ The coastline was *mapped* by early explorers.
2 *US* : to plan the details of (something) ▪ We *mapped* [=*mapped out*] a plan of action.

map onto [*phrasal verb*] ***map (something) onto (something)*** *technical* : to find or show the connections between two things or groups of things ▪ *map* brain functions *onto* brain structures

map out [*phrasal verb*] ***map (something) out*** *or* ***map out (something)*** : to plan the details of (something, such as a program or your future) ▪ We *mapped out* a plan of action. ▪ They *mapped* her campaign for governor all *out*. ▪ She has her future all *mapped out*.

ma•ple /ˈmeɪpəl/ *noun, pl* **ma•ples**
1 [*count*] : a type of tree that grows in northern parts of the world and has hard wood often used in making furniture ▪ The *maple* leaf is an emblem of Canada. — called also *maple tree*
2 [*noncount*] : the wood of a maple tree ▪ a table made of *maple*

maple sugar *noun* [*noncount*] : a brown sugar made from the sap of maple trees

maple syrup *noun* [*noncount*] : a sweet, thick liquid made from the sap of maple trees ▪ pancakes served with butter and *maple syrup*

mar /ˈmɑɚ/ *verb* **mars; marred; mar•ring** [+ *obj*] : to ruin the beauty or perfection of (something) : to hurt or damage the good condition of (something) ▪ A large scar *marred* his face. ▪ Her acting *mars* an otherwise great movie. — often used as *(be) marred* ▪ The report *is marred* by numerous errors. ▪ a car *marred* by scratches

Mar. *abbr* March

ma•ra•ca /məˈrɑːkə, *Brit* məˈrækə/ *noun, pl* **-cas** [*count*] : a musical instrument with a handle and a round hollow top that is filled with beads, beans, etc., and is shaken to make noise — usually plural ▪ play the *maracas*

mar•a•schi•no /ˌmerəˈskiːnoʊ, merəˈʃiːnoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-nos**
1 [*count*] : a kind of sweet cherry that is used in desserts or alcoholic drinks — called also *maraschino cherry*
2 [*count, noncount*] : a sweet alcoholic drink made from cherry juice

[1]mar•a•thon /ˈmerəˌθɑːn/ *noun, pl* **-thons** [*count*]
1 : a running race that is about 26 miles (42 kilometers) long ▪ He ran (in) a *marathon*.
2 a : something (such as an event or activity) that lasts an extremely long time or that requires great effort ▪ We watched a *marathon* of our favorite movies. ▪ a movie *marathon* ▪ a shopping *marathon* **b** : a contest in which people compete with each other to see who can do something for the longest amount of time ▪ a dance *marathon*

[2]marathon *adj, always used before a noun* : lasting an unusually long time ▪ Their *marathon* meeting lasted two full days. ▪ a *marathon* negotiating session

mar•a•thon•er /ˈmerəˌθɑːnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a runner who competes in a marathon

ma•raud•ing /məˈrɑːdɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : traveling from place to place to attack others ▪ *Marauding* soldiers wandered from town to town. ▪ a *marauding* band/gang of thieves ▪ *marauding* lions
– **ma•raud•er** /məˈrɑːdɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a band/gang of *marauders*

mar•ble /ˈmɑɚbəl/ *noun, pl* **mar•bles**
1 [*noncount*] : a kind of stone that is often polished and used in buildings and statues ▪ The statue is made of *marble*. ▪ a block of *marble* — often used before another noun ▪ the museum's polished *marble* floor/staircase ▪ a *marble* countertop
2 a [*count*] : a little glass ball used in some children's games ▪ I love to play with *marbles*. **b** ***marbles*** [*noncount*] : a children's game played with little glass balls ▪ Let's play *marbles*. = Let's play a game of *marbles*.

lose your marbles *informal + humorous* : to become insane ▪ When he started ranting about how the government was out to get him, I thought he'd *lost his marbles*. [=*gone crazy*] ▪ He hasn't completely *lost his marbles* yet.

mar•bled /ˈmɑɚbəld/ *adj*
1 : made from or decorated with marble ▪ The mansion has beautiful *marbled* columns. ▪ a *marbled* hall
2 : having markings or colors similar to marble ▪ *marbled* paper
3 *of meat* : having lines of fat mixed throughout ▪ *marbled* beef ▪ The meat was *marbled* with fat.

[1]march /ˈmɑɚʧ/ *verb* **march•es; marched; march•ing**
1 [*no obj*] **a** : to walk with regular steps as a group : to walk

in the regular and organized way of soldiers ▪ The band *marched* onto the field. ▪ The soldiers were lined up and ordered to begin *marching*. ▪ Hundreds of people *marched* in the parade. **b** *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to go into, out of, or through a place as an army ▪ The army *marched* south to cut off the enemy's retreat. ▪ Enemy troops were ***marching on*** the city. [=they were coming toward the city to attack it]

2 [*no obj*] : to walk with a large group of people who are protesting or supporting something ▪ We *marched* for/against new elections. ▪ Demonstrators ***marched on*** City Hall to protest the war.

3 [*no obj*] : to walk somewhere quickly in a direct and forceful way ▪ He *marched* angrily out the door. ▪ I *marched* into the office and demanded an answer. ▪ She *marched* right up to me and asked what was wrong.

4 [+ *obj*] : to cause or force (a person) to walk somewhere ▪ They *marched* the prisoners through the streets of the city. ▪ We *marched* the children off to bed. [=we made the children go to bed] — see also FROG-MARCH

march on [*phrasal verb*] : to go or continue onward ▪ Time *marches on*. ▪ Governments come and go, but civilization *marches on*.

– **march•er** /ˈmɑɚʧɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ There were hundreds of *marchers* in the parade. ▪ protest *marchers*

²march *noun, pl* **marches**

1 [*count*] **a** : an act of walking together as an organized group : an act of marching ▪ The soldiers were ordered to begin their *march*.; *especially* : an organized walk by a large group of people to support or protest something ▪ a protest *march* ▪ They led a *march* in support of affirmative action. **b** : the distance covered by marching for a specified period of time ▪ The nearest town was a day's *march* away.

2 [*singular*] *somewhat formal* : forward movement or progress ▪ the *march* of time/civilization ▪ Time continues its *march* onward/forward.

3 [*count*] : a piece of music with a strong regular beat that is written to be played while people are marching ▪ They played the general's favorite *march*.

on the march **1** : marching toward a place ▪ Thousands of troops were *on the march*. **2** : going forward ▪ Time is *on the march*.

steal a march on *chiefly Brit* : to get ahead of or win an advantage over (someone) in an unexpected and clever way ▪ He *stole a march on* his competitors by being the first to put the product on the market.

March /ˈmɑɚʧ/ *noun, pl* **March•es** : the third month of the year [*noncount*] in (early/middle/mid-/late) *March* ▪ early/late in *March* ▪ We arrived on *March* the fourth. = (*US*) We arrived on *March* fourth. = We arrived on the fourth of *March*. [*count*] Sales are up (for) this *March*. ▪ It happens every *March*. ✧ The saying ***March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb*** means that the month of March begins with bad weather and ends with good weather. — abbr. *Mar.*

marching band *noun, pl* ~ **bands** [*count*] : a group of musicians who play instruments while marching together at a parade or sports event

marching orders *noun* [*plural*]

1 *US* : orders that tell you what to do ▪ The boss called a meeting and gave the new employees their *marching orders*.

2 *Brit* — used to say that someone has been ordered to leave a place, job, etc. ▪ I was given my *marching orders*. = I got/received my *marching orders*. [=I was fired from my job]

Mar•di Gras /ˈmɑɚdiˌgrɑ:/ *noun* : the Tuesday before the beginning of Lent that is often celebrated with parades and parties [*noncount*] We're going to New Orleans for *Mardi Gras*. [*singular*] It was a *Mardi Gras* to remember!

mare /ˈmeɚ/ *noun, pl* **mares** [*count*] : an adult female horse

mar•ga•rine /ˈmɑɚʤɚrən, *Brit* ˌmɑ:ʤəˈri:n/ *noun, pl* **-rines** [*count, noncount*] : a food that resembles butter and is made from vegetable oils ▪ a stick of *margarine*

mar•ga•ri•ta /ˌmɑɚgəˈri:tə/ *noun, pl* **-tas** [*count*] : an alcoholic drink made of tequila, lime or lemon juice, and an orange-flavored liquor

marge /ˈmɑɚʤ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit, informal* : MARGARINE

mar•gin /ˈmɑɚʤən/ *noun, pl* **-gins** [*count*]

1 : the part of a page that is above, below, or to the side of the printed part ▪ Please write your name in the left/left-hand *margin* of the page. ▪ a book with wide/narrow *margins*

2 : the place where something (such as a piece of land) stops : the edge of something ▪ We'll meet at the *margin* [=(more commonly) *edge*] of the forest. ▪ Mountains lie at the city's northern/southern *margins*. — often used figuratively in the phrase ***on the margins*** or (*US*) ***on the margin*** ▪ We are trying to improve medical care for poor families living *on the margins* of society. [=poor families who are often forgotten or ignored by society] ▪ The business has been operating *on the margins* of respectability. [=has been operating in a way that is not truly respectable]

3 : an extra amount of something (such as time or space) that can be used if it is needed ▪ a safety *margin* ✧ If you have little or no ***margin for/of error***, it means that you need to be very careful not to make mistakes. If you have a greater *margin for/of error*, you can be less careful. ▪ We want the design to offer users a generous *margin for error*. ▪ The schedule allows us very little *margin for error*.

4 : a measurement of difference ▪ The bullet missed his heart by a narrow/slim *margin*. [=the bullet narrowly missed his heart] ▪ We lost the election by a one-vote *margin*. [=we lost the election by one vote] ▪ She won by a *margin* of 3,000 votes. ▪ He was the winner by a large/considerable *margin*. ✧ A ***margin of error*** is a number or percentage that shows how accurate a measurement is. ▪ The poll indicates that the President is supported by 54 percent of the voters, with a *margin of error* of 3 percent. [=it is possible that as few as 51 percent or as many as 57 percent of the voters support the President] — see also PROFIT MARGIN

¹mar•gin•al /ˈmɑɚʤənl/ *adj*

1 a : not very important ▪ a *marginal* problem **b** : very slight or small ▪ There has been only a *marginal* improvement in her condition.

2 : not included in the main part of society or of a group ▪ *marginal* voters

3 *chiefly US* : not very good ▪ His reading and writing abilities are *marginal*. ▪ She's a *marginal* athlete. ▪ *marginal* living conditions

4 *always used before a noun* : written or printed in the margin of a page ▪ *marginal* notes

5 *Brit* : able to be won or lost by changing only a few votes ▪ At the next election the opposition parties will try to capture some *marginal* seats [=*marginals*] from the government.

6 *of land* : just able to produce enough crops to pay for the cost of producing those crops ▪ farmers who must eke out a living on *marginal* land(s)

²marginal *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] *Brit* : a political seat, position, etc., that is won or lost by only a few votes ▪ How many *marginals* changed hands at the last election?

mar•gin•al•ize *also Brit* **mar•gin•al•ise** /ˈmɑɚʤənəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es**; **-ized**; **-iz•ing** [+ *obj*] : to put or keep (someone) in a powerless or unimportant position within a society or group ▪ We are protesting policies that *marginalize* women. [=that do not allow women to have important or powerful positions in a society] ▪ The program helps people from *marginalized* groups/populations.

– **mar•gin•al•i•za•tion** *also Brit* **mar•gin•al•i•sa•tion** /ˌmɑɚʤənələˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌmɑ:ʤənəˌlaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

mar•gin•al•ly /ˈmɑɚʤənəli/ *adv*

1 : to a small extent or degree : SLIGHTLY ▪ This book is *marginally* more interesting than the others. ▪ Her plan was only *marginally* successful.

2 *US* : almost not : BARELY ▪ He is only *marginally* qualified for the job.

ma•ri•a•chi /ˌmɑriˈɑ:ʧi, ˌmeriˈɑ:ʧi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : a type of lively Mexican street music played by a band of trumpets and guitars — usually used before another noun ▪ a *mariachi* band/musician

mari•gold /ˈmerəˌgoʊld/ *noun, pl* **-golds** [*count*] : a plant that is grown for its bright yellow or orange flowers

mar•i•jua•na /ˌmerəˈwɑ:nə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the dried leaves and flowers of the hemp plant that are smoked as a drug

ma•rim•ba /məˈrɪmbə/ *noun, pl* **-bas** [*count*] : a wooden musical instrument that is similar to a xylophone

ma•ri•na /məˈri:nə/ *noun, pl* **-nas** [*count*] : an area of water where privately owned boats (such as yachts) are kept

¹mar•i•nade /ˌmerəˈneɪd/ *noun, pl* **-nades** : a sauce in which meat or fish is soaked to add flavor or to make the meat or fish more tender [*noncount*] a bottle of *marinade* [*count*] a variety of spicy *marinades*

²marinade *verb* **-nades**; **-nad•ed**; **-nad•ing** [+ *obj*] : MARINATE

mar•i•nate /ˈmerəˌneɪt/ *verb* **-nates**; **-nat•ed**; **-nat•ing**

: to put meat or fish in a sauce for a period of time to add flavor or to make the meat or fish more tender : to soak in a marinade [+ *obj*] The recipe says that you should *marinate* the chicken overnight. [*no obj*] The chicken should be allowed to *marinate* overnight.

[1]ma•rine /mə'ri:n/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : of or relating to the sea or the plants and animals that live in the sea ▪ *marine* life ▪ *marine* animals such as dolphins and whales ▪ a *marine* environment ▪ ***marine biologists*** [=scientists who study life in the sea]

2 : of or relating to sailing on the sea or doing business (such as trading) by sea ▪ a *marine* [=*nautical*] chart ▪ *marine* [=(more commonly) *maritime*] law

[2]marine *or* **Marine** *noun, pl* **-rines** [*count*] : a member of the U.S. Marine Corps or the British Royal Marines ▪ He is a former U.S. *Marine*. ▪ The *marines* have landed. ▪ the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and *Marines* ▪ *marine* barracks

the Marines : the part of a country's military forces that includes soldiers who serve on a ship or are closely associated with a naval force : the U.S. Marine Corps or the British Royal Marines ▪ an officer in *the Marines*

Marine Corps *noun*

the Marine Corps : the part of the U.S. military that consists of soldiers who serve at sea and also on land

mar•i•ner /'merənə/ *noun, pl* **-ners** [*count*] *old-fashioned + literary* : SAILOR

mar•i•o•nette /ˌmerijə'nɛt/ *noun, pl* **-nettes** [*count*] : a puppet that is moved by pulling strings or wires that are attached to its body



marionette

mar•i•tal /'merətl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to marriage ▪ They've been having *marital* problems/difficulties. ▪ *marital* vows ▪ They've enjoyed many years of ***marital bliss***. [=happiness in marriage]

marital status *noun* [*noncount*] : the state of being married or not married — used on official forms to ask if a person is married, single, divorced, or widowed ▪ Please enter your *marital status*. ▪ What is your *marital status*?

mar•i•time /'merəˌtaɪm/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to sailing on the sea or doing business (such as trading) by sea ▪ The country's *maritime* industry is an important part of its economy. ▪ She's an expert in *maritime* law. ▪ a *maritime* museum

2 : located near or next to the sea ▪ *maritime* nations/provinces ▪ the country's *maritime* region

mar•jo•ram /'mɑəʤərəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an herb that has a pleasant smell and is often used in cooking

[1]mark /'mɑək/ *noun, pl* **marks**

1 [*count*] **a** : a small area on the surface of something that is dirty, damaged, etc. ▪ a burn/scratch *mark* ▪ The glass left a water *mark* on the wooden table. — see also BLACK MARK **b** : an area of something (such as an animal's fur or skin) that is a different color from the area around it ▪ The cat has white fur with some black *marks* on its head and tail. — see also BIRTHMARK, STRAWBERRY MARK, STRETCH MARKS

2 [*count*] **a** : a written or printed shape or symbol ▪ proofreading *marks* — see also PUNCTUATION MARK **b** : a symbol or shape on something that identifies it, shows its quality, etc. ▪ The goldsmith's *mark* is stamped on the back. — see also LANDMARK, POSTMARK, TRADEMARK **c** : a cross made in place of a signature by someone who cannot read and write ▪ We read him the document and he made his *mark* on it.

3 [*count*] : something that shows how someone feels about something : a sign or indication *of* something ▪ He gave her the necklace as a *mark of* his esteem. ▪ They left flowers on the grave as a *mark of* respect. ▪ Those extra responsibilities he's giving you are a *mark of* confidence. [=they show that he has confidence in you]

4 [*count*] : a quality or trait that is typical of a particular type of person or thing — + *of* ▪ Courtesy is the *mark* [=*hallmark, sign*] *of* a true gentleman. ▪ A willingness to ask tough questions is the *mark of* a good journalist. ▪ He thinks that indecisiveness is a *mark of* weakness. [=indecisiveness shows weakness]

5 [*count*] : a number or letter that indicates how a student has performed in a class or on a test : GRADE ▪ I got a good/high/low *mark* in/for English. ▪ I got a good/high/low *mark* on the spelling test. ▪ She barely earned passing *marks* in her first year of college. ▪ failing *marks* — often used figuratively ▪ I'll give them ***high/top marks*** for honesty. [=they are very honest; I give them a lot of praise and credit for being honest] — see also FULL MARKS

6 [*singular*] : a specified point or level ▪ We're at the halfway *mark* in the first period of play. ▪ The population has topped the 1,000,000 *mark*. — see also HIGH-WATER MARK

7 [*count*] : something that is aimed at or shot at : TARGET ▪ The arrow hit/missed/overshot the *mark*. ▪ The bullet ***found its mark***. [=hit the target that was aimed for] — often used figuratively ▪ Our fund-raising fell/was ***short of the mark***. [=we did not raise as much money as we needed]

8 [*count*] *US* : a person who is tricked into losing money or property ▪ They proved to be easy *marks* for the swindler.

9 [*count*] : the line or place where a race starts ▪ The runners were told to ***take their marks***. [=to get into position for the start of the race] ▪ ***On your mark***, get set, go!

close to the mark *or* ***near the mark*** : fairly accurate : almost correct ▪ Their estimate was pretty *close to the mark*.

leave/make a/your mark : to do something that causes you to be remembered : to create a lasting or strong impression ▪ He worked at several jobs, but he didn't *make* much of *a mark* in any of them. ▪ From the moment we saw her in action, we knew she would *make her mark* as a teacher. ▪ Her kindness *left its mark* on her students.

miss its/the mark : to fail or be wrong ▪ Their estimates completely *missed the mark*. [=were not accurate] ▪ The ad campaign was supposed to appeal to young people but it *missed the mark*. — see also [1]MARK 7 (above)

off the mark *or* ***wide of the mark*** : not accurate or correct : not achieving the desired result ▪ The results of the fund-raising were *wide of the mark*. ▪ His efforts to console her were *off the mark*. [=his efforts to console her did not help]

quick/slow off the mark : quick or slow to act or to understand something ▪ As soon as the opportunity arose, he was *quick off the mark* in exploiting it. ▪ I was *slow off the mark* [=I did not act quickly] and missed my chance.

up to the mark : up to the usual standard of performance, quality, etc. : as good as usual — usually used in negative statements ▪ I haven't been feeling *up to the mark* lately. ▪ His work hasn't been *up to the mark*.

– compare [3]MARK

[2]mark *verb* **marks; marked; mark•ing**

1 : to make or leave a visible mark on (something) [+ *obj*] Any little bit of dirt will *mark* that fabric. ▪ Be careful not to *mark* the floor with your shoes. [*no obj*] a fabric that *marks* easily [=that easily becomes dirty or stained]

2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to write or make (a mark) ▪ *mark* an accent on/over a letter ▪ She *marked* an "X" on each box. **b** : to write a note about (something) ▪ I have *marked* the event on my calendar. ▪ *Mark* [=*jot*] down these names. **c** : to write or make a mark on (something) ▪ She *marked* each box with an "X." ▪ *Mark* that page.; *also* : to write on (something) in order to indicate what it is ▪ The officials *marked* the document "Top Secret." = The officials *marked* the document as top secret. **d** : to write or put a mark around or near (something) so that it will be easily seen or noticed ▪ I've *marked* several items on the first page. [=I've put marks next to several items on the first page]

3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to indicate (a location, such as a location on a map) with a mark or symbol ▪ X *marks* the spot where the suspect was last seen. ▪ I have *marked* (out) the best route on the map. **b** : to put something on or near (a particular place) in order to find it later ▪ Use a bookmark to *mark* your place. ▪ We put some tape on the floor to *mark* where the tables should go. **c** *of an animal* : to leave urine, feces, body oils, etc., in (a place) as a signal to other animals ▪ The dog *marked* the base of the tree by urinating. ▪ a tiger *marking* its territory

4 [+ *obj*] : to be a typical feature or quality of (someone or something) : CHARACTERIZE ▪ the flamboyance that *marks* her style — often used as *(be) marked* ▪ His artwork *is marked* by unusual uses of color. [=color is used in unusual ways in his artwork] ▪ The adjective "paranoid" can be defined as "*marked* by paranoia."

5 [+ *obj*] : to have a permanent and usually bad effect on (someone or something) ▪ Her time in prison *marked* her for life.

6 : to give a mark to (a student or a student's work) : GRADE [+ *obj*] Students will be *marked* on their reading ability. ▪ She spent the evening *marking* the students' exams/papers. [*no obj*] She generally *marks* high/low. [=she generally gives high/low marks] — see also MARK DOWN (below)

7 [+ *obj*] **a** : to be or occur at (a particular time) ▪ This year

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marks her 10th year with the company. [=this is her 10th year with the company] **b :** to indicate the occurrence of (an important event or time) ▪ Her death *marked* the end of an era. [=an era ended when she died] **c :** to celebrate (an important event or time) by doing something ▪ We'll have a big party to *mark* our 50th anniversary.

8 [+ *obj*] **:** to show that (someone or something) is special or different in some way ▪ Her very first book *marked* her as a great poet. [=showed that she was a great poet] ▪ She was evidently *marked* [=*destined*] for greatness. — see also MARK OUT (below)

mark down [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***mark down*** *or* ***mark (someone or something) down*** *or* ***mark down (someone or something)*** **:** to give a lower mark to (someone or something) ▪ *mark* a student *down* for not acknowledging his sources ▪ Your paper was well-written, but I had to *mark* it *down* [=give it a lower grade] for being late. ▪ Some teachers *mark down* for poor penmanship. **2** ***mark (something) down*** *or* ***mark down (something)*** **:** to give (something) a lower price ▪ a product *marked down* from $15 to $13.75 ▪ Everything has been *marked down* for the sale. — see also MARKDOWN

mark my words — used to tell someone to listen to and remember what you are saying ▪ *Mark my words*: nothing good will come of this!

mark off [*phrasal verb*] ***mark (something) off*** *or* ***mark off (something)*** **:** to make (an area) separate with a line, fence, etc. ▪ We *marked off* an area where people could wait.

mark out [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***mark (something) out*** *or* ***mark out (something)*** **:** to draw lines around (something) so that it can be clearly seen ▪ He *marked out* his mining claim. **2** ***mark (something) out*** *or* ***mark out (something)*** **:** to plan the details of (a course of action) ▪ She talked about the course the European Union has *marked out* [=*mapped out*] for itself. **3** ***mark (someone or something) out*** *or* ***mark out (someone or something)*** *chiefly Brit* **:** to show that (someone or something) is special or different in some way ▪ Her very first book *marked* her *out* as a great poet. [=showed that she was a great poet] ▪ She was *marked out* [=*destined, marked*] for greatness.

mark time **1 :** to move your feet up and down like someone who is marching but without moving forward ▪ The soldiers *marked time* until ordered to advance. **2 :** to live without doing much while you wait for something to happen ▪ I'm just *marking time* until I retire.

mark up [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***mark (something) up*** *or* ***mark up (something)*** **:** to make marks and write comments in or on (something) ▪ *mark up* a manuscript **2** ***mark (something) up*** *or* ***mark up (something)*** **:** to give (something) a higher price ▪ a product *marked up* from $15 to $15.99 ▪ a product *marked up* by 10 percent — see also MARKUP

mark you *Brit, old-fashioned* — used in speech to give stress to a statement that you are making so that a preceding or following statement will not be misunderstood ▪ I don't always agree with him. *Mark you*, [=*mind you*] I'm not criticizing him!

– see also MARKED

[3]mark *noun, pl* **marks** [*count*] **:** DEUTSCHE MARK — compare [1]MARK

mark•down /ˈmɑɚkˌdaʊn/ *noun, pl* **-downs** [*count*] **:** a reduction in price ▪ a *markdown* of 10 percent = a 10 percent *markdown* — see also *mark down* at [2]MARK

marked /ˈmɑɚkt/ *adj*

1 : having a mark or a particular kind of mark ▪ a *marked* card [=a playing card that has a secret mark on its back so that someone can see what the card is without looking at its face] ▪ All the streets are well-*marked*. [=all the streets have signs showing their names] ▪ The bird's wings are *marked* with white. [=the bird has white marks on its wings]

2 *always used before a noun* [*more ~; most ~*] **:** very noticeable ▪ He speaks with a *marked* accent. ▪ There was a *marked* change in her attitude. ▪ There's been a *marked* improvement in the weather. ▪ His current friendly manner is ***in marked contrast to*** his usual behavior. [=is very different from his usual behavior]

a marked man/woman **1 :** someone who is famous or who gets a lot of attention ▪ Winning the race made him *a marked man*. ▪ As the front-runner, the candidate has become *a marked woman*. **2 :** someone who is not liked or trusted or who is in danger of being harmed ▪ His unpopular ideas made him *a marked man* at work.

– **mark•ed•ly** /ˈmɑɚkədli/ *adv* ▪ *markedly* different opinions ▪ The town had changed *markedly*.

mark•er /ˈmɑɚkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : something (such as a sign or an object) that shows the location of something ▪ a grave *marker*

2 : something that shows the presence or existence of something ▪ a *marker* for/of cancer ▪ A person's accent can be a *marker* of social class.

3 : a type of pen that makes wide lines — see picture at OFFICE; see also MAGIC MARKER

[1]mar•ket /ˈmɑɚkət/ *noun, pl* **-kets**

1 [*count*] **a :** a place where products are bought and sold ▪ a fish/meat/produce *market* ▪ a street *market* ▪ a country *market* — see also FLEA MARKET **b** *US* **:** a store where foods and often household items are sold **:** SUPERMARKET ▪ I stopped at the *market* on the way home for some juice.

2 [*count*] **a :** an area (such as a country or part of a country) where a product or service can be sold ▪ They are trying to develop foreign *markets* for American cotton. ▪ The company sells mainly to the Southern *market*. ▪ New *markets* are opening up all over the world. **b :** a particular type of people who might buy something ▪ Advertisers are trying to appeal to the youth *market*. ▪ targeting a more mature *market* ▪ a reference work for the educational *market* — see also BLACK MARKET, BUYER'S MARKET, SELLER'S MARKET

3 [*singular*] **:** the amount of need and desire that people have for a product or service — used to describe how many people want to buy something; usually + *for* ▪ There is a good/growing *market for* new homes. [=there are many people who want to buy new homes] ▪ There is currently a poor/declining *market for* used cars. ▪ They found a ready *market for* their products. [=they easily found many people who wanted to buy their products]

4 [*singular*] **:** the available supply of workers or jobs ▪ the ***labor market*** [=the number of workers who are available to be hired] ▪ the ***job market*** [=the number of jobs that are available for workers]

5 [*singular*] **:** the economic activity of buying and selling that causes prices to become higher or lower ▪ He believes that housing prices should be determined by ***the market*** without government interference. ▪ a ***market-driven*** industry/economy — see also FREE MARKET, SINGLE MARKET

6 [*count*] **:** the activity of buyers and sellers of a particular product ▪ It's not clear how these changes may affect the software *market*.

7 [*singular*] **:** STOCK MARKET ▪ The *market* was down today in heavy trading. ▪ He enjoys ***playing the market***. [=actively buying and selling stocks in the hope of making a profit] — see also BEAR MARKET, BULL MARKET

in the market **:** looking for something in particular **:** interested in buying or finding something ▪ He hasn't found a new job yet, but he is still *in the market*. [=he is still looking for a new job] — usually + *for* ▪ She is *in the market for* a new house. [=she is looking for a new house to buy] ▪ She's *in the market for* a husband.

on the market **:** available to be bought ▪ Their house is still *on the market*. ▪ The land just came *on the* (open) *market* last week. ▪ The software will be *on the market* next month. ▪ They've decided to ***put*** their house ***on the market***. [=they've decided to sell their house]

price (someone) out of the market see [2]PRICE

[2]market *verb* **-kets**; **-ket•ed**; **-ket•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to do things that cause people to know about and want to buy (something) ▪ The company has spent millions *marketing* the latest version of its software. ▪ These products are being aggressively *marketed* to teenagers through television ads. — see also MARKETING

2 : to offer (something) for sale in a market **:** SELL ▪ He *markets* his wares at craft shows.

– **mar•ket•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a leading *marketer* of software ▪ She is a *marketer* for a publishing company.

mar•ket•able /ˈmɑɚkətəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] **:** able to be sold **:** wanted by buyers or employers ▪ a *marketable* product ▪ an employee with highly/very *marketable* skills

– **mar•ket•abil•i•ty** /ˌmɑɚkətəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a product's potential *marketability*

market economy *noun, pl* **~ -mies** [*count*] **:** an economic system in which prices are based on competition among private businesses and not controlled by a government

mar•ke•teer /ˌmɑɚkəˈtiɚ/ *noun, pl* **-teers** [*count*]

1 : a person or company that sells or promotes a product or service ▪ software *marketeers* [=*marketers*]

2 : a person or company that is associated with a specified kind of market ▪ a ***black marketeer*** [=a person who sells

things on the black market] ▪ a ***free marketeer*** [=a person who supports free markets]

market forces *noun* [*plural*] : the actions of buyers and sellers that cause the prices of goods and services to change without being controlled by the government : the economic forces of supply and demand ▪ The value of these commodities is determined by *market forces*.

market garden *noun, pl* ~ **-dens** [*count*] *Brit* : TRUCK FARM
– **market gardener** *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*]

mar•ket•ing /ˈmɑəkətɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the activities that are involved in making people aware of a company's products, making sure that the products are available to be bought, etc. ▪ The company will increase its budget for *marketing*. ▪ She has a job in *marketing*. ▪ She runs the company's *marketing* department.

mar•ket•place /ˈmɑəkətˌpleɪs/ *noun, pl* **-plac•es**
1 [*singular*] : the economic system through which different companies compete with each other to sell their products ▪ Their products must compete in the *marketplace*. ▪ The company has struggled to survive in a rapidly changing *marketplace*.
2 [*count*] : a place in a town where markets are held

market price *noun* [*singular*] : the price at which a product can be sold at a particular time

market research *noun* [*noncount*] : research that is done to get information about what people want to buy, why they want to buy it, etc.
– **market researcher** *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*]

market share *noun, pl* ~ **shares** : the percentage that a company has of the total sales for a particular product or service [*noncount*] The company has gained/lost *market share* in the past year. [*count*] companies working to increase/improve their *market shares*

market value *noun, pl* ~ **-ues** : the price at which something can be sold : the price that buyers are willing to pay for something [*count*] When he tried to sell his car he found out that its *market value* was much lower than he had expected. [*noncount*] The house sold below *market value*.

mark•ing /ˈmɑəkɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*]
1 : a mark, shape, or word that is written or drawn on something — usually plural ▪ road *markings* ▪ It was difficult to read the *markings* on the label.
2 : a mark or pattern of marks on the body of an animal — usually plural ▪ a black cat with white *markings*
3 : the act or process of giving a grade to a student's work ▪ the *marking* [=(*US*) *grading*] of students' papers
have (all) the markings of *chiefly US* : to have the qualities or features of (something) ▪ They have *all the markings of* a championship team. ▪ a movie that *has all the markings of* [=*has all the makings of*] a big hit

marks•man /ˈmɑəksmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a person (especially a man) who is skilled in shooting a gun at a target

marks•man•ship /ˈmɑəksmənˌʃɪp/ *noun* [*noncount*] : skill in shooting guns

marks•wom•an /ˈmɑəksˌwʊmən/ *noun, pl* **-wom•en** /-ˌwɪmən/ [*count*] : a woman who is skilled in shooting a gun at a target

mark•up /ˈmɑəkˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*] : an amount added to the price of something : the difference between the cost of producing something and its selling price ▪ The retail *markup* on their products is 25 percent. ▪ selling used cars at high *markups* — see also *mark up* at ²MARK

mar•lin /ˈmɑələn/ *noun, pl* **marlin** *or* **mar•lins** [*count*] : a large fish that lives in the sea and that people catch for sport — see color picture on page C8

mar•ma•lade /ˈmɑəməˌleɪd/ *noun, pl* **-lades** [*count, noncount*] : a sweet jelly that contains pieces of fruit ▪ a jar of orange *marmalade*

mar•mo•set /ˈmɑəməˌsɛt, *Brit* ˈmɑːməˌzɛt/ *noun, pl* **-sets** [*count*] : a small monkey of South and Central America that has soft fur and a long tail

mar•mot /ˈmɑəmət/ *noun, pl* **-mots** [*count*] : a small animal of America and Europe that has short legs and that lives in holes that it digs in the ground

¹ma•roon /məˈruːn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a dark red color — see color picture on page C3
– **maroon** *adj* ▪ a *maroon* fabric

²maroon *verb* **-roons; -rooned; -roon•ing** [+ *obj*] : to leave (someone) in a place (such as an island) that is difficult or impossible to get away from — usually used as *(be) marooned* ▪ The sailors *were marooned* [=*stranded*] on the island for six months. ▪ She *was marooned* [=*stuck*] at the office without a ride home.

marque /ˈmɑək/ *noun, pl* **marques** [*count*] : a group of products (such as sports cars) that are made by a particular company and given a particular name ▪ could finally afford a car of a fashionable *marque* [=*brand, make*]

¹mar•quee /mɑəˈkiː/ *noun, pl* **-quees** [*count*]
1 *US* **a** : a covered structure over the entrance to a building (such as a hotel or theater) **b** : a sign over the entrance to a theater that shows the name of the show, movie, play, etc., and the names of the main performers ▪ She dreamed of seeing her name on the theater *marquee*.
2 *Brit* : a large tent that is set up for an outdoor event (such as a party)

²marquee *adj, always used before a noun, US, informal* : very popular and well known ▪ The film features two *marquee* [=*big-name, star*] performers. ▪ *marquee* athletes/events

mar•quess /ˈmɑəkwəs/ *noun, pl* **-quess•es** [*count*] : a British nobleman who has a rank that is below a duke and above an earl

mar•quis /ˈmɑəkwəs/ *noun, pl* **-quis•es** [*count*] : MARQUESS

mar•riage /ˈmerɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-riag•es**
1 a : the relationship that exists between a husband and a wife [*count*] It was his second *marriage*. ▪ They have a very happy *marriage*. ▪ Her first two *marriages* ended in divorce. [*noncount*] She has old-fashioned ideas about *marriage*. ▪ the institution of *marriage* ▪ He ***proposed marriage*** to his girlfriend. [=asked his girlfriend to marry him] ▪ couples living together before *marriage* ▪ They were ***joined in marriage*** [=they were married] last year. ▪ They are related ***by marriage***. [=they are related because one of them is married to a family member of the other] — see also ARRANGED MARRIAGE, CIVIL MARRIAGE, MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE, MIXED MARRIAGE **b** : a similar relationship between people of the same sex [*count*] a same-sex *marriage* [*noncount*] opponents/supporters of same-sex *marriage* ▪ gay *marriage*
2 [*count*] : a ceremony in which two people are married to each other ▪ Many friends and relatives were present at their *marriage*. ▪ a priest who has performed many *marriages*
3 [*singular*] : a close union *of* or *between* two things ▪ a *marriage of* sweet and spicy flavors ▪ a *marriage of* science and art ▪ a *marriage between* form and function
marriage bed see ¹BED

mar•riage•able /ˈmerɪʤəbəl/ *adj* : able to marry or suitable for marriage ▪ a woman of *marriageable* age [=a woman who is old enough to marry]

marriage certificate *noun, pl* ~ **-cates** [*count*] : a legal document that shows that a marriage has taken place

marriage counseling (*US*) *or Brit* **marriage counselling** *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : help for married couples who have problems in their relationship ▪ They are going to *marriage counseling*. ▪ They need *marriage counseling*. — called also (*Brit*) *marriage guidance*

marriage license *noun, pl* ~ **-censes** [*count*] : a legal document that is needed for a marriage to occur

marriage of convenience *noun, pl* **marriages of convenience** [*count*] : a marriage made for social, political, or economic reasons and not for love — usually singular; often used figuratively ▪ The two companies have joined together in a *marriage of convenience*.

¹mar•ried /ˈmerid/ *adj*
1 a : united in marriage ▪ a newly/recently *married* couple ▪ They are happily *married* with several children. ▪ They're planning to ***get married*** [=planning to marry] in October. **b** : having a husband or wife ▪ a *married* man/woman ▪ Is he *married*? — often + *to* ▪ He has been *married to* his wife for almost 50 years. = He and his wife have been *married to* each other for almost 50 years. **c** *always used before a noun* : of or relating to marriage ▪ He's enjoying *married* life.
2 : very involved with something (such as a job) — + *to* ▪ He's *married to* his work. [=he gives all of his attention to his work]

²married *noun, pl* **-rieds** [*count*] *informal* : a married person — usually plural ▪ Lots of young *marrieds* are moving into the neighborhood.

married name *noun, pl* ~ **names** [*count*] : a married woman's last name if she uses her husband's last name as her own ▪ She used to be Susan Brown, but her *married name* is Susan Wilson.

mar•row /ˈmeroʊ/ *noun, pl* **-rows**
1 [*noncount*] : a soft substance that fills the bones of people and animals — called also *bone marrow*
2 [*count, noncount*] *Brit* : a large, long vegetable with dark green skin
to the marrow : very much ▪ We were frozen *to the marrow*. [=we were very cold] ▪ The look in his eyes ***chilled me to the marrow*** [=made me feel very fearful]

mar•ry /ˈmeri/ *verb* **-ries**; **-ried**; **-ry•ing**
1 : to become the husband or wife of (someone) : to become joined with (someone) in marriage [+ *obj*] He *married* his college sweetheart. ▪ *marrying* a doctor/lawyer ▪ I asked her to *marry* me. ▪ "Will you *marry* me?" "Yes, I will." [*no obj*] He hopes to *marry* [=*get married*] soon. ▪ She *married* young. [=she was young when she married] ▪ They *married* for love, not money.
2 [+ *obj*] : to perform a ceremony in which two people get married ▪ The minister has *married* more than 100 couples. ▪ They hope to have a priest *marry* them. ▪ They were *married* by a justice of the peace.
3 [+ *obj*] : to find a husband or wife for (your child) — often + *to* ▪ He *married* his daughter *to* his partner's son. — often + *off* ▪ They *married* their son *off to* the daughter of a close friend. ▪ trying to *marry* their children *off*
4 [+ *obj*] : to join or combine (two things) closely ▪ The design *marries* traditional elements with/to/and modern methods.
marry into [*phrasal verb*] ***marry into (something)*** : to become a member of (something, such as a family, group, culture, etc.) by marrying someone ▪ He *married into* a very wealthy family. [=his wife's family is very wealthy] ▪ She *married into* the upper class.
marry money : to marry someone who is wealthy ▪ My cousin hopes to *marry money*.

Mars /ˈmɑɚz/ *noun* [*singular*] : the planet that is fourth in order from the sun

marsh /ˈmɑɚʃ/ *noun, pl* **marsh•es** : an area of soft, wet land that has many grasses and other plants [*count*] wetlands and *marshes* [*noncount*] a wide expanse of *marsh* ▪ *marsh* grasses
– **marshy** /ˈmɑɚʃi/ *adj* **marsh•i•er**; **-est** [*also more ~; most ~*] ▪ a wet *marshy* region/habitat ▪ *marshy* ground

[1]mar•shal /ˈmɑɚʃəl/ *noun, pl* **-shals** [*count*]
1 : an officer of the highest rank in some military forces — see also FIELD MARSHAL
2 *US* : a federal official who is responsible for doing the things that are ordered by a court of law, finding and capturing criminals, etc.
3 *US* : the head of a division of a police or fire department ▪ a fire *marshal*
4 : person who arranges and directs ceremonies or parades ▪ a parade *marshal* — see also GRAND MARSHAL

[2]marshal *verb* **-shals**; *US* **-shaled** *or chiefly Brit* **-shalled**; *US* **-shal•ing** *or chiefly Brit* **-shal•ling** [+ *obj*]
1 a : to arrange (a group of people, such as soldiers) in an orderly way ▪ *marshal* the troops/forces **b** : to move or lead (a group of people) in a careful way ▪ The teacher *marshaled* [=*ushered*] the children into the classroom.
2 : to arrange or prepare (something, such as your thoughts or ideas) in a clear, effective, or organized way ▪ She carefully *marshaled* her thoughts before answering the question. ▪ *marshal* an argument

marsh•land /ˈmɑɚʃˌlænd/ *noun, pl* **-lands** : an area of soft and wet land : MARSH [*count*] living near a *marshland* [*noncount*] one hundred acres of *marshland*

marsh•mal•low /ˈmɑɚʃˌmɛloʊ, *Brit* ˌmɑːʃˈmæləʊ/ *noun, pl* **-lows** [*count, noncount*] : a soft, white, sweet food made of sugar and eggs ▪ We toasted *marshmallows* over the fire.

mar•su•pi•al /mɑɚˈsuːpijəl/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] : a type of animal (such as a kangaroo or an opossum) that carries its babies in a pocket of skin on the mother's stomach
– **marsupial** *adj* ▪ a *marsupial* species

mart /ˈmɑɚt/ *noun, pl* **marts** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a place where things are bought and sold : MARKET ▪ an antiques *mart*

mar•ten /ˈmɑɚtn̩/ *noun, pl* **marten** *or* **mar•tens**
1 [*count*] : a small animal that is related to the weasel and has soft gray or brown fur
2 [*noncount*] : the fur of a marten

mar•tial /ˈmɑɚʃəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to war or soldiers ▪ *martial* music ▪ *martial* [=*military*] discipline

martial art *noun, pl* **~ arts** [*count*] : any one of several forms of fighting and self-defense (such as karate and judo) that are widely practiced as sports ▪ He was trained in the *martial arts*.
– **martial artist** *noun, pl* **~ -ists** [*count*]

martial law *noun* [*noncount*] : control of an area by military forces rather than by the police ▪ The government has imposed/declared *martial law* throughout the city to stop the riots. ▪ an area placed under *martial law*

[1]Mar•tian /ˈmɑɚʃən/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to the planet Mars ▪ the *Martian* landscape ▪ the *Martian* day/year

[2]Martian *noun, pl* **-tians** [*count*] : an imaginary creature in books, movies, etc., that lives on or comes from the planet Mars

mar•tin /ˈmɑɚtn̩/ *noun, pl* **-tins** [*count*] : a small bird that is related to the swallows

mar•ti•net /ˌmɑɚtəˈnɛt/ *noun, pl* **-nets** [*count*] *formal* : a person who is very strict and demands obedience from others ▪ The prison's warden was a cruel *martinet*.

mar•ti•ni /mɑɚˈtiːni/ *noun, pl* **-nis** [*count*] : an alcoholic drink made with gin and vermouth ▪ He ordered a *martini*. ▪ a *martini* glass ▪ a dry *martini*; *also* : a similar drink made with vodka instead of gin ▪ a vodka *martini*

[1]mar•tyr /ˈmɑɚtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tyrs** [*count*]
1 : a person who is killed or who suffers greatly for a religion, cause, etc. ▪ the early Christian *martyrs* ▪ They know that killing him will only make a *martyr* out of him. [=will make him someone who is admired as a hero for having suffered or died for a cause] — sometimes + *to* ▪ He was a *martyr to* a noble cause. [=he died or suffered for a noble cause]
2 *disapproving* : a person who pretends to suffer or who exaggerates suffering in order to get praise or sympathy ▪ He enjoys ***playing the martyr*** [=he enjoys acting like someone who deserves admiration or sympathy because of being badly treated]
3 : a person who suffers greatly from something (such as an illness) — + *to* ▪ a *martyr to* rheumatism

[2]martyr *verb* **-tyrs**; **-tyred**; **-tyr•ing** [+ *obj*] : to kill (someone) for refusing to give up a belief or cause — usually used as *(be) martyred* ▪ He *was martyred* for his religious beliefs.

mar•tyr•dom /ˈmɑɚtɚdəm/ *noun, pl* **-doms** : the suffering and death of a martyr [*noncount*] He suffered *martyrdom* [=he was martyred] for his religious beliefs. [*count*] religious *martyrdoms*

[1]mar•vel /ˈmɑɚvəl/ *noun, pl* **-vels** [*count*] : someone or something that is extremely good, skillful, etc. : a wonderful or marvelous person or thing ▪ That boy is a *marvel*! [=*wonder*] ▪ The bridge is a *marvel* of engineering. = The bridge is an engineering *marvel*. ▪ architectural *marvels*

[2]marvel *verb* **-vels**; *US* **-veled** *or chiefly Brit* **-velled**; *US* **-vel•ing** *or chiefly Brit* **-vel•ling** : to feel great surprise, wonder, or admiration [*no obj*] — usually + *at* or *over* ▪ The audience *marveled at* the magician's skill. ▪ The doctors are *marveling over* her dramatic recovery. [+ *obj*] The doctors *marveled* that anyone could recover so quickly.

mar•vel•ous (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **mar•vel•lous** /ˈmɑɚvələs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : extremely good or enjoyable : WONDERFUL ▪ We had a *marvelous* time at the party. ▪ He has a *marvelous* way with children. ▪ The weather was simply *marvelous*. ▪ a *marvelous* writer/book/idea
– **mar•vel•ous•ly** (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **mar•vel•lous•ly** *adv* ▪ They all get along *marvelously*. ▪ a *marvelously* entertaining book

Marx•ism /ˈmɑɚkˌsɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the political, economic, and social theories of Karl Marx including the belief that the struggle between social classes is a major force in history and that there should eventually be a society in which there are no classes
– **Marx•ist** /ˈmɑɚksɪst/ *adj* ▪ *Marxist* theory ▪ a *Marxist* government – **Marxist** *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*]

mar•zi•pan /ˈmɑɚzəˌpæn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a sweet food that is made with almonds, sugar, and eggs and that is often made into various shapes or used to cover cakes

mas•cara /mæˈskerə, *Brit* mæˈskɑːrə/ *noun, pl* **-caras** [*count, noncount*] : a type of makeup used for darkening and thickening eyelashes — see picture at GROOMING

mas•cot /ˈmæˌskɑːt/ *noun, pl* **-cots** [*count*] : a person, animal, or object used as a symbol to represent a group (such as a sports team) and to bring good luck ▪ The team had a mountain lion as their *mascot*.

[1]mas·cu·line /ˈmæskjələn/ *adj*
1 [*more ~; most ~*] : of, relating to, or suited to men or boys ▪ a *masculine* voice/perspective/name ▪ The living room is decorated in a more *masculine* style than the bedroom. ▪ She has a rather *masculine* [=*mannish*] voice/handshake. — compare [1]FEMININE
2 *grammar, in some languages* : of or belonging to the class of words (called a gender) that ordinarily includes most of the words referring to males ▪ a *masculine* noun ▪ "He" is a pronoun of the *masculine* gender. ▪ The *masculine* form of the Spanish adjective "linda" is "lindo." — compare [1]FEMININE, [1]NEUTER
– **mas·cu·lin·i·ty** /ˌmæskjəˈlɪnəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ traditional ideas about femininity and *masculinity*

[2]masculine *noun, pl* **-lines** [*count*] *grammar, in some languages* : a word or form of the masculine gender ▪ The *masculine* of the Spanish adjective "linda" is "lindo."

[1]mash /ˈmæʃ/ *verb* **mash·es**; **mashed**; **mash·ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something, such as a type of food) into a soft mass by beating it or crushing it ▪ She *mashed* (up) the potatoes/carrots. ▪ *mashing* fruit for the baby ▪ She fed the baby some *mashed* carrots. ▪ For dinner we had steak with green beans and ***mashed potatoes*** [=potatoes that have been boiled and then mashed]

[2]mash *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a wet mixture of crushed malt or grain that is used in making alcoholic drinks (such as beer and whiskey)
2 : a soft mixture of grains used as food for animals
3 *Brit, informal* : mashed potatoes ▪ bangers and *mash*

mash·er /ˈmæʃɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a tool that is used for mashing food ▪ a potato *masher*

mash note *noun, pl* **~ notes** [*count*] *US, informal* : a note or letter that expresses love or affection for the person who receives it ▪ Her glowing review of his performance reads like a *mash note* from a lovesick fan.

[1]mask /ˈmæsk, *Brit* ˈmɑːsk/ *noun, pl* **masks** [*count*]
1 : a covering for your face or for part of your face: such as **a** : a covering used to hide or disguise your face ▪ a Halloween *mask* ▪ Everyone wore costumes and *masks* to the dance. ▪ The robbers wore *masks*. **b** : a covering used to protect your face or cover your mouth ▪ Doctors wear surgical *masks* in the operating room. ▪ a (baseball) catcher's *mask* — see picture at SCUBA DIVING; see also FACE MASK, GAS MASK, OXYGEN MASK, SKI MASK



mask

2 : a way of appearing or behaving that is not true or real — usually singular ▪ Her anger and resentment were hidden behind a *mask* of friendship. [=she pretended to be friendly but was really angry and resentful]

[2]mask *verb* **masks**; **masked**; **mask·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to hide (something) from sight ▪ The house was *masked* by trees.
2 : to keep (something) from being known or noticed ▪ She *masked* [=*hid*] her anger with a smile. ▪ They tried to *mask* their real purpose. ▪ She tried using perfume to *mask* the bad odor.

masked /ˈmæskt, *Brit* ˈmɑːskt/ *adj*
1 : wearing a mask ▪ The bank was held up by *masked* robbers. ▪ The dancers were *masked*.
2 *always used before a noun* : done by or involving people who wear masks ▪ a *masked* ball [=a formal party for dancing at which people wear masks] ▪ a *masked* dance

masking tape *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of tape that is sticky on one side and that has many different uses (such as to cover an area when you are painting near it)

mas·och·ism /ˈmæsəˌkɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : enjoyment of pain : pleasure that someone gets from being abused or hurt; *especially* : sexual enjoyment from being hurt or punished — compare SADISM
– **mas·och·ist** /ˈmæsəkɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ sexual *masochists* – **mas·och·is·tic** /ˌmæsəˈkɪstɪk/ *adj* ▪ *masochistic* tendencies/behavior – **mas·och·is·ti·cal·ly** /ˌmæsəˈkɪstɪkli/ *adv*

ma·son /ˈmeɪsn̩/ *noun, pl* **-sons** [*count*]
1 : a skilled worker who builds or works with stone, brick, or concrete — see also STONEMASON
2 ***Mason*** : FREEMASON

Ma·son·ic /məˈsɑnɪk/ *adj* : of or relating to Freemasons or Freemasonry ▪ a *Masonic* temple

ma·son jar *or* **Ma·son jar** /ˈmeɪsn̩-/ *noun, pl* **~ jars** [*count*] *US* : a glass jar that has a wide opening and that is usually used in preserving fruits or vegetables

ma·son·ry /ˈmeɪsn̩ri/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the stone, brick, or concrete used to build things ▪ a structure built of *masonry* ▪ blocks of *masonry* ▪ a *masonry* wall
2 : work done using stone, brick, or concrete : work done by a mason ▪ skillful *masonry*
3 ***Masonry*** : FREEMASONRY

masque /ˈmæsk, *Brit* ˈmɑːsk/ *noun, pl* **masques** [*count*] : a type of play that was performed in the 16th and 17th centuries by actors wearing masks

[1]mas·quer·ade /ˌmæskəˈreɪd/ *noun, pl* **-ades** [*count*]
1 : a party at which people wear masks and often costumes
2 : a way of appearing or behaving that is not true or real ▪ Their happy marriage was all just a *masquerade*. [=*charade*] ▪ She could not keep up the *masquerade* any longer.

[2]masquerade *verb* **-ades**; **-ad·ed**; **-ad·ing** [*no obj*] : to pretend to be someone or something else ▪ He was *masquerading* under a false name. — usually + *as* ▪ The movie is about a spy who *masquerades as* a salesman. ▪ a man *masquerading as* a woman
– **mas·quer·ad·er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

[1]mass /ˈmæs/ *noun, pl* **mass·es**
1 [*count*] : a usually large amount of a substance that has no particular shape ▪ The slush froze into an icy *mass*. ▪ a cold air *mass* ▪ rock *masses* — often + *of* ▪ a *mass of* metal/clay/dough ▪ *masses of* floating ice — see also BODY MASS INDEX, CRITICAL MASS, LANDMASS
2 a [*count*] : a large number or amount *of* something ▪ The plant produces a (great/large/huge) *mass of* blossoms every spring. = The plant produces *masses of* blossoms every spring. ▪ a *mass of* data/information **b** [*count*] : a large number *of* people ▪ A great *mass of* voters turned out for the election. ▪ The team was greeted by a *mass* [=*crowd*] *of* fans. ▪ The war has forced *masses of* people to flee their homes. **c** ***masses*** [*plural*] *Brit, informal* : a large amount of something ▪ Don't worry: we've still got *masses* [=*lots*] of time.
3 ***the masses*** : the ordinary or common people ▪ His films are not intended to appeal to *the masses*. ▪ the needs of *the masses* ▪ a politician who is popular with *the masses* ▪ trying to reach *the masses*
4 [*noncount*] *physics* : the quantity of matter in something ▪ a star's *mass*
the mass of : the main part of (something) ▪ *The mass of* the iceberg [=the largest part of the iceberg] is below the surface of the water. ▪ His policies are supported by *the* (great/broad) *mass of* the people. [=by most of the people]

[2]mass *verb* **masses**; **massed**; **mass·ing** : to form or gather into a large group [*no obj*] A large crowd of demonstrators *massed* outside the courthouse. ▪ Clouds were *massing* on the horizon. [+ *obj*] The generals *massed* their troops.

[3]mass *adj, always used before a noun* : involving, affecting, or designed for many people ▪ *mass* demonstrations ▪ weapons of *mass* destruction ▪ *mass* murder ▪ a *mass* murderer ▪ *mass* hysteria ▪ Television is a *mass* medium. ▪ a *mass* market

Mass *noun, pl* **Mass·es**
1 : a Christian ceremony especially in the Roman Catholic Church in which people eat bread and drink wine representing the body and blood of Jesus Christ [*noncount*] They attend *Mass* every Sunday. ▪ a priest's duty to say/celebrate *Mass* [*count*] Sunday *Masses* are held at three different times.
2 [*count*] : music written for the parts of a Mass

[1]mas·sa·cre /ˈmæsɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sa·cres**
1 : the violent killing of many people [*count*] a *massacre* of civilians ▪ bloody *massacres* [*noncount*] evidence of *massacre*
2 [*count*] *informal* : a game or competition in which one person or team easily defeats another ▪ The game turned out to be a complete *massacre*.

[2]massacre *verb* **-sa·cres**; **-sa·cred**; **-sa·cring** [+ *obj*]
1 : to violently kill (a group of people) : SLAUGHTER ▪ Hundreds have been *massacred* in the uprising.
2 *informal* : to easily defeat (someone or something) ▪ The other team really *massacred* us on Saturday.

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3 : to do (something) very badly : to ruin (something) because of lack of skill ▪ He really *massacred* that song.

[1]mas•sage /mə'sɑ:ʒ, *Brit* 'mæˌsɑ:ʒ/ *noun, pl* **-sag•es** : the action of rubbing or pressing someone's body in a way that helps muscles to relax or reduces pain in muscles and joints [*count*] She gave him a neck *massage*. ▪ a facial/foot *massage* [*noncount*] using *massage* to help relax ▪ a *massage* therapist ▪ *massage* therapy

[2]massage *verb* **-sages**; **-saged**; **-sag•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to rub or press (someone's body) in a way that helps muscles to relax or reduces pain in muscles and joints : to give a massage to (someone or a part of someone's body) ▪ She *massaged* his back. ▪ He *massaged* his forehead. ▪ She *massaged* her leg until the numbness was gone.

2 : to change (numbers, data, etc.) in a dishonest way in order to deceive people ▪ Researchers of the drug have been accused of *massaging* [=*manipulating*] the data to make it appear to be more effective than it really is.

massage someone's ego : to say things that make someone feel important and proud ▪ He gained the friendship of powerful politicians by *massaging their egos*.

massage parlor (*US*) *or Brit* **massage parlour** *noun, pl* **~ -lors** [*count*]

1 : a place where people pay to be given a massage

2 : a place that is supposed to be for massages but where people pay to have sex

mas•seur /mæ'sɚ/ *noun, pl* **-seurs** [*count*] : a man whose job is to give massages

mas•seuse /mæ'sɚz/ *noun, pl* **-seus•es** [*count*] : a woman whose job is to give massages

mas•sive /'mæsɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : very large and heavy ▪ The fort had *massive* walls. ▪ *massive* furniture ▪ the dog's *massive* head/jaw ▪ stars more *massive* than the sun

2 a : large in amount or degree ▪ A *massive* effort will be required to clean up the debris. ▪ You can find a *massive* amount of information on the Internet. ▪ The stunt received *massive* publicity. ▪ a *massive* collection of baseball cards **b** : very severe ▪ a *massive* heart attack ▪ a *massive* stroke

– **mas•sive•ly** *adv* ▪ a *massively* built structure ▪ a *massively* popular actor [=an extremely popular actor]– **mas•sive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the castle's sheer *massiveness*

mass media *noun* [*plural*] : the radio stations, television stations, and newspapers through which information is communicated to the public ▪ an event that has attracted a lot of attention from the *mass media* ▪ the dissemination of news by *mass media* ▪ The *mass media* have ignored this important issue.— sometimes used with a singular verb ▪ The *mass media* has ignored this important issue.

mass noun *noun, pl* **~ nouns** [*count*] *grammar* : NONCOUNT NOUN

mass–pro•duce /ˌmæsprə'du:s, *Brit* ˌmæsprə'dju:s/ *verb* **-duc•es**; **-duced**; **-duc•ing** [+ *obj*] : to produce very large amounts of (something) usually by using machinery ▪ The company has begun *mass-producing* computer chips.

– **mass–produced** *adj* ▪ *mass-produced* foods/furniture

– **mass production** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *mass production* of computer chips

mass transit *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : the system that is used for moving large numbers of people on buses, trains, etc. ▪ The mayor is trying to encourage more commuters to use *mass transit* in order to alleviate traffic in the city. — called also *public transit*

mast /'mæst, *Brit* 'mɑ:st/ *noun, pl* **masts** [*count*]

1 : a long pole that supports the sails of a boat or ship — see picture at BOAT

2 : a tall pole that supports or holds something (such as a flag) — see also HALF-MAST

[1]mas•ter /'mæstɚ, *Brit* 'mɑ:stə/ *noun, pl* **-ters**

1 [*count*] : someone who has control or power over others: such as **a** : someone (especially a man) who has a servant or slave ▪ As a slave he was required to do his *master's* bidding without question. **b** : someone (especially a man) who owns a pet (such as a dog) ▪ The dog was always obedient to its *master*. **c** *formal* : the male head of a household ▪ the *master* and mistress of the house **d** : a man who is in charge of the people on a ship ▪ a ship's *master*

2 [*count*] : a person who has control of something — usually + *of* ▪ He was the *master of* his feelings. [=he was able to control his own feelings] ▪ She proved herself (to be) *master of* the situation. ▪ We are the *masters of* our own destiny.

3 [*count*] : a person who has become very skilled at doing something ▪ She is a *master* of her craft. ▪ a chess *master* ▪ a Dutch *master* [=one of the great Dutch painters of the past] — often + *at* ▪ He is a *master at* manipulating people.— see also GRAND MASTER, PAST MASTER

4 a [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a male teacher — see also HEADMASTER, SCHOOLMASTER **b** ***Master*** — used as a title for the male head of certain British colleges ▪ He was *Master* of Balliol.

5 [*count*] : a person who has received a master's degree ▪ a *master* of arts

6 [*count*] : an original version of something (such as a recording) from which copies can be made

7 ***Master*** *formal* + *old-fashioned* — used as a title for a boy who is too young to be called *Mister* ▪ *Master* Timothy

jack-of-all-trades, master of none see JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES

serve two masters see [1]SERVE

[2]master *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : highly skilled ▪ a *master* carpenter/electrician ▪ a *master* storyteller ▪ a *master* chef

2 : largest or most important ▪ the house's *master* bedroom/bathroom ▪ the network's *master* computer

3 — used to describe an original version from which other copies can be made ▪ a *master* tape recording ▪ the *master* copy

[3]master *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to succeed in controlling (something, such as an emotion) ▪ He *mastered* [=*overcame*] his fear. ▪ *master* a desire

2 : to learn (something) completely : to get the knowledge and skill that allows you to do, use, or understand (something) very well ▪ She *mastered* French in college. ▪ He is determined to *master* every aspect of the business.

mas•ter•ful /'mæstɚfəl, *Brit* 'mɑ:stəfəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : able to take control of people or situations ▪ a *masterful* commander ▪ His manner was *masterful* and abrupt.

2 : very skillful ▪ a *masterful* [=*masterly*] performance/translation ▪ a *masterful* work of art ▪ He did a *masterful* job of staying out of trouble.

– **mas•ter•ful•ly** *adv* ▪ The chairman walked *masterfully* into the meeting. ▪ The book was *masterfully* translated.

master key *noun, pl* **~ keys** [*count*] : a key that can be used to open many locks (such as all the door locks in a building)

mas•ter•ly /'mæstɚli, *Brit* 'mɑ:stəli/ *adj* : showing great skill : very skillful ▪ He deserves congratulations for the *masterly* [=*masterful*] way in which he handled the crisis. ▪ a *masterly* performance ▪ She did a *masterly* job of organizing the conference.

[1]mas•ter•mind /'mæstɚˌmaɪnd, *Brit* 'mɑ:stəˌmaɪnd/ *noun, pl* **-minds** [*count*] : a person who plans and organizes something ▪ He is considered (to be) the *mastermind* of the team's winning strategy. ▪ a criminal *mastermind* ▪ the *mastermind* behind the terrorist plot

[2]mastermind *verb* **-minds**; **-mind•ed**; **-mind•ing** [+ *obj*] : to plan and organize (something) : to be the mastermind of (something) ▪ They *masterminded* a unique solution to the problem. ▪ He *masterminded* the bank robbery.

master of ceremonies *noun, pl* **masters of ceremonies** [*count*] : a person who introduces guests, speakers, or performers at a formal event ▪ The *master of ceremonies* introduced the guest of honor.— called also (*US*) *emcee, MC*

mas•ter•piece /'mæstɚˌpi:s, *Brit* 'mɑ:stəˌpi:s/ *noun, pl* **-piec•es** [*count*]

1 : a great book, painting, piece of music, movie, etc. ▪ a literary/cinematic *masterpiece* ▪ The painting was immediately recognized as a *masterpiece*; *also* : the best book, painting, piece of music, movie, etc., by a particular person ▪ Herman Melville's *masterpiece* was *Moby-Dick*.

2 : something done with great skill ▪ a *masterpiece* of planning ▪ Her study of apes is a *masterpiece*.

master plan *noun, pl* **~ plans** [*count*] : a detailed plan for doing something that will require a lot of time and effort ▪ He has a *master plan* for becoming a millionaire.

master's *noun, pl* **master's** [*count*] *informal* : MASTER'S DEGREE ▪ She has a *master's* in biology.

master's degree *noun, pl* **~ -grees** [*count*] : a degree that is given to a student by a college or university usually after one or two years of additional study following a bachelor's degree

mas•ter•work /'mæstɚˌwɚk, *Brit* 'mɑ:stəˌwə:k/ *noun, pl*

-works [*count*] : a great work of art : MASTERPIECE ▪ a musical *masterwork*

mas•tery /ˈmæstəri, ˈmɑːstəri/ *noun*
1 : knowledge and skill that allows you to do, use, or understand something very well : COMMAND — usually + *of* [*noncount*] We were impressed by her *mastery of* the subject. [*singular*] She achieved a complete *mastery of* French.
2 [*noncount*] : complete control of something ▪ He struggled to gain *mastery* of/over his fears.

mast•head /ˈmæstˌhɛd, *Brit* ˈmɑːstˌhɛd/ *noun, pl* **-heads** [*count*]
1 : the top of a ship's mast
2 : the name of a newspaper shown on the top of the first page

mas•ti•cate /ˈmæstəˌkeɪt/ *verb* **-cates**; **-cat•ed**; **-cat•ing** *technical* : to chew (food) [+ *obj*] The cows were *masticating* their food. [*no obj*] *masticating* cows
– **mas•ti•ca•tion** /ˌmæstəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

mas•tiff /ˈmæstəf/ *noun, pl* **-tiffs** [*count*] : a type of large, powerful dog

mas•to•don /ˈmæstəˌdɑːn/ *noun, pl* **-dons** [*count*] : a type of animal that was related to the mammoth and that lived in ancient times

mas•tur•bate /ˈmæstəˌbeɪt/ *verb* **-bates**; **-bat•ed**; **-bat•ing** [*no obj*] : to touch or rub your own sexual organs for sexual pleasure
– **mas•tur•ba•tion** /ˌmæstəˈbeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]
– **mas•tur•ba•to•ry** /ˈmæstəbəˌtori, *Brit* ˌmæstəˈbeɪtəri/ *adj* ▪ *masturbatory* fantasies

mat /ˈmæt/ *noun, pl* **mats** [*count*]
1 a : a small piece of material used to cover the floor or ground ▪ Be sure to wipe your dirty feet on the *mat* [=*doormat*] before you enter the house. — see also BATH MAT, WELCOME MAT **b** : a small piece of material used to protect the surface of a table ▪ She set the hot plate on the *mat*. — see also PLACE MAT, TABLE MAT **c** : a thick pad that is used as a soft surface for some activities (such as wrestling, gymnastics, yoga, etc.)
2 : a thick mass of something that is stuck or twisted together — usually + *of* ▪ a thick *mat of* vegetation/hair
go to the mat *chiefly US, informal* : to make a lot of effort to do something : to try very hard at something ▪ They *went to the mat* to protect the program. ▪ She'll ***go to the mat for*** you. [=she will do everything she can to help you]

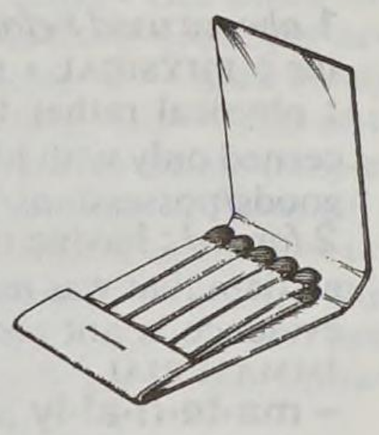
mat•a•dor /ˈmætəˌdoɚ/ *noun, pl* **-dors** [*count*] : the person who has the major part in a bullfight and who kills the bull

[1]match /ˈmætʃ/ *noun, pl* **match•es**
1 [*singular*] : someone or something that is equal to or as good as another person or thing ▪ He was ***no match for*** his opponent. [=his opponent was able to defeat him easily] ▪ He was ***more than a match for*** his opponent. [=he defeated his opponent easily] ▪ She knew after the first game that she had ***met her match***. [=knew that her opponent was as good as she was and could defeat her] ▪ a politician who has finally *met his match*
2 [*singular*] **a** : two people or things that are suited to each other ▪ The curtains and carpet are a good/perfect *match* (for each other). ▪ Deborah and Brad are/make a good *match*. ▪ Everyone thought that they were ***a match made in heaven***. [=two people perfectly suited to each other] **b** : someone or something that is suited to another person or thing — usually + *for* ▪ She found a sweater that was a nice *match for* her skirt. ▪ He was a good *match for* her because they shared the same interests.
3 [*count*] : a contest between two or more players or teams ▪ a soccer *match* [=*game*] ▪ a chess *match* ▪ He lost a close *match* against a tough opponent. ▪ a tennis/boxing *match* — sometimes used figuratively ▪ He got into a ***shouting match*** with his neighbor. = (*Brit*) He got into a ***slanging match*** with his neighbor. [=he and his neighbor were angrily shouting at each other] ▪ They got into a ***shoving match***. [=they were angrily shoving each other] — see also RETURN MATCH, *grudge match* at [1]GRUDGE
– compare [3]MATCH

[2]match *verb* **matches**; **matched**; **match•ing**
1 a : to be suited to (someone or something) : to go well with (someone or something) [+ *obj*] The curtains *match* the carpet perfectly. = The curtains and the carpet *match* each other perfectly. ▪ This color *matches* your skin tone. ▪ She was wearing a beautiful skirt, but her sweater didn't *match* it. ▪ The upbeat music *matched* her mood. [*no obj*] The curtains and carpet don't *match*. [=*go together*] ▪ Her skirt and sweater *matched* perfectly. ▪ Do these colors *match*? ▪ (*chiefly US*) a wine that *matches* (up) well with rich foods ▪ He's a large man with hands ***to match***. [=a large man with large hands] **b** : to have the same appearance, color, etc. [*no obj*] The pillows on the couch all *match*. ▪ Your socks don't *match*. [+ *obj*] Your socks don't *match* each other.
2 [+ *obj*] : to make or see a connection or relationship between (two people or things) ▪ The children *matched* (up) the names of the animals to the correct pictures. — often + *with* ▪ My mom is always trying to *match* me up *with* her friends' daughters. — see also *mix and match* at [1]MIX
3 : to be in agreement with (something) [+ *obj*] The description *matches* [=*fits*] him closely. ▪ His story doesn't *match* the facts. [*no obj*] Their stories didn't *match* (up). [=their stories didn't agree with each other] ▪ His story doesn't *match* (up) with the facts.
4 a : to be the equal of (something or someone) : to be as good as (something or someone) [+ *obj*] Nothing will ever *match* the sheer excitement of that game. = Nothing will ever *match* that game in/for sheer excitement. ▪ The movie didn't *match* our expectations. [=the movie was not as good as we expected it to be] ▪ Nobody can *match* him at golf. [=no one is as good as he is at playing golf] ▪ The car has a record of reliability that's hard to *match*. ▪ His talents are *matched* only by his ego. ▪ The company's growth has been *matched* by the increase in its political influence. ▪ I've never seen anything to *match* this spectacle. ▪ The two runners were *matching* each other stride for stride. ▪ It was a close game between two ***evenly matched*** teams. [=two teams that are equally good] [*no obj*] The concert didn't ***match up to*** [=*equal, meet*] our expectations. **b** [+ *obj*] : to provide, produce, or do something that is equal to (something else) ▪ We were unable to *match* their offer. ▪ The company will *match* employee contributions to the insurance plan. ▪ An anonymous donor has promised to *match* the first $10,000 donated to the charity. ▪ He could never hope to *match* his brother's success.
5 [+ *obj*] : to place (someone or something) in competition against another — often + *against* ▪ They were *matched against* each other in the first round of the play-offs. — often + *with* ▪ The game will *match* last year's champions *with* their leading rivals.
6 [+ *obj*] : to compare (something) with something else — usually + *against* ▪ The fingerprints were *matched against* those stored in the computer.
– **matching** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ She was wearing a dark blue skirt with/and a *matching* sweater. ▪ *matching* colors

[3]match *noun, pl* **matches** [*count*] : a short, thin piece of wood or thick paper with a special tip that produces fire when it is scratched against something else ▪ light a *match* ▪ a book/box of *matches* — compare [1]MATCH

match•book /ˈmætʃˌbʊk/ *noun, pl* **-books** [*count*] : a small folder that contains rows of matches


matchbook

match•box /ˈmætʃˌbɑːks/ *noun, pl* **-box•es** [*count*] : a small box for matches

match•less /ˈmætʃləs/ *adj* : having no equal : better than all others ▪ The museum has a *matchless* collection of paintings. ▪ *matchless* beauty

match•mak•er /ˈmætʃˌmeɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who tries to bring two people together so that they will marry each other
– **match•mak•ing** /ˈmætʃˌmeɪkɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

match point *noun, pl* ~ **points**
1 : a situation in tennis in which one player or team can win the match by winning the next point [*count*] He won with an ace on his second *match point*. [*noncount*] He won with an ace on/at *match point*.
2 [*count*] : the final point that must be won to win a match in tennis — compare GAME POINT

match•stick /ˈmætʃˌstɪk/ *noun, pl* **-sticks** [*count*] : the wood or paper part of a match ▪ Cut the peppers into pieces the size of *matchsticks*.

[1]mate /ˈmeɪt/ *noun, pl* **mates**
1 [*count*] : a person who lives with you, works in the same place as you, etc. — usually used in combination with another noun ▪ We have been office *mates* for 10 years. [=we have worked together in the same office for 10 years] — see also CLASSMATE, FLATMATE, HOUSEMATE, PLAYMATE, ROOMMATE, RUNNING MATE, SCHOOLMATE, SEATMATE, SHIP-

MATE, SOUL MATE, STABLEMATE, TABLEMATE, TEAMMATE, WORKMATE

2 [*count*] : either one of a pair of animals that are breeding ▪ One bird remains at the nest while its *mate* hunts for food.

3 [*count*] *chiefly US* : a person's husband, wife, or romantic or sexual partner ▪ He was finding it difficult to find a *mate*. ▪ an ideal *mate*

4 [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* : either one of a pair of objects ▪ I can't find the *mate* to this glove.

5 [*count*] : an officer on a ship who has a rank below the captain ▪ a first/second/third *mate*

6 [*count*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : a friend ▪ Me and a couple of *mates* of mine went round to the pub. ▪ She and I have been best *mates* for ages. — often used as a friendly way for one man to address another man ▪ Got a light, *mate*?

7 [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : an assistant or helper ▪ a plumber's *mate* ▪ an electrician's *mate*

8 [*noncount*] : CHECKMATE

²mate *verb* **mates; mat·ed; mat·ing**

1 a [*no obj*] *of animals* : to have sexual activity in order to produce young ▪ This species of bird *mates* in early spring. ▪ The male *mated* with the female. = The male and the female *mated*. ▪ a *mating* call/ritual ▪ the ***mating season*** [=the time of year when an animal mates] ▪ These birds ***mate for life*** [=they form pairs and stay together throughout their lives] **b** [+ *obj*] : to bring (animals) together so that they will breed and produce young ▪ Researchers *mated* two different kinds of mice. ▪ *mating* a male dog to/with a female

2 [+ *obj*] : to join or connect (things) together ▪ The stereo sounds best when it is *mated* to/with high-quality speakers.

¹ma·te·ri·al /mə'tirijəl/ *noun, pl* **-als**

1 a : a substance from which something is made or can be made [*count*] building *materials* ▪ paper, plastic, or other *materials* [*noncount*] small pieces of *material* ▪ hard *material* like stone — see also RAW MATERIAL **b** : a substance that has a particular quality [*count*] a sticky *material* ▪ explosive *materials* [*noncount*] genetic *material*

2 : something used in doing a particular activity [*count*] — usually plural ▪ writing/reference *materials* [*noncount*] She was never without reading *material*.

3 [*noncount*] : cloth or fabric ▪ The curtains required yards of expensive *material*.

4 [*noncount*] : information or ideas ▪ He has been gathering *material* for a new biography. ▪ The revised edition includes a large amount of new *material*. ▪ The comedian gets his *material* from things that have happened to him.

5 [*noncount*] : a person who is suited to a particular position or job ▪ Her boss regards her as executive *material*. [=as someone who would make a good executive] ▪ My parents never felt that I was college *material*. [=that I was someone who should go to college]

²material *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* **a** : relating to or made of matter : PHYSICAL ▪ the *material* world ▪ *material* objects **b** : physical rather than spiritual or intellectual ▪ He is concerned only with his own *material* comforts/needs. ▪ *material* goods/possessions/rewards/wealth

2 *formal* : having real importance ▪ The researchers included all data that was *material*. ▪ *material* facts — often + *to* ▪ The evidence is not *material* [=*relevant*] *to* the case. — opposite IMMATERIAL

– **ma·te·ri·al·ly** *adv* ▪ The organization contributes *materially* to the efforts for peace. ▪ a *materially* rich but spiritually poor culture

ma·te·ri·al·ism /mə'tirijə,lɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : a way of thinking that gives too much importance to material possessions rather than to spiritual or intellectual things ▪ the *materialism* of modern society

2 *philosophy* : the belief that only material things exist

– **ma·te·ri·al·ist** /mə'tirijəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ a greedy *materialist* – **ma·te·ri·al·is·tic** /mə,tirijə'lɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ She is spoiled and very *materialistic*. ▪ a *materialistic* culture/society

ma·te·ri·al·ize *also Brit* **ma·te·ri·al·ise** /mə'tirijə,laɪz/ *verb* **-iz·es; -ized; -iz·ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to become visible : to appear especially in a sudden or magical way ▪ A waiter suddenly *materialized* beside our table. ▪ Rain clouds *materialized* on the horizon.

2 : to begin to happen or exist : to occur or become real — usually used in negative statements ▪ The bad weather we had worried about never *materialized*. ▪ The money they promised us has so far failed to *materialize*.

– **ma·te·ri·al·i·za·tion** /mə,tirijələ'zeɪʃən, *Brit* mə,tɪəriə-,laɪ'zeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

ma·té·ri·el *or US* **ma·te·ri·el** /mə,tiri'ɛl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : equipment and supplies used by soldiers ▪ weapons and other *matériel*

ma·ter·nal /mə'tɚnəl/ *adj*

1 a : of or relating to a mother : MOTHERLY ▪ *maternal* love ▪ *maternal* feelings/instincts **b** *always used before a noun* : of or relating to a woman who is having a baby ▪ Doctors are concerned about the effects of the drug on *maternal* health. ▪ *maternal* smoking

2 *always used before a noun* : related through the mother ▪ his *maternal* grandparents [=the parents of his mother] ▪ a *maternal* aunt/uncle — compare PATERNAL

– **ma·ter·nal·ly** *adv* ▪ She smiled at them *maternally*. ▪ *maternally* inherited genes

¹ma·ter·ni·ty /mə'tɚnəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the state of being a mother : MOTHERHOOD — compare PATERNITY

²maternity *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : designed to be worn by a woman who is pregnant ▪ *maternity* clothes ▪ a *maternity* dress

2 : relating to the time when a woman gives birth to a baby ▪ *maternity* pay ▪ The company granted her ***maternity leave***. [=time off to take care of a newborn child]

3 — used to refer to an area in a hospital where women who are giving birth to babies are cared for ▪ a *maternity* unit/ward

¹mat·ey /'meɪti/ *adj* **mat·i·er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*] *Brit, informal* : FRIENDLY ▪ a boss who is *matey* with his staff

²matey *noun* [*singular*] *Brit, informal + sometimes impolite* — used as a way for one man to address another man ▪ Listen, *matey*, I'm not putting up with that anymore!

math /'mæθ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : MATHEMATICS ▪ She's always been good at *math*. [=(*Brit*) *maths*]

math·e·mat·i·cal /,mæθə'mætɪkəl/ *adj*

1 : of, relating to, or involving mathematics ▪ a *mathematical* problem/equation/formula ▪ a *mathematical* genius

2 : very exact or complete ▪ They recorded the changes with *mathematical* precision. ▪ The results can be predicted with *mathematical* [=*absolute*] certainty.

3 : possible but very unlikely ▪ The team has only a *mathematical* chance of making the play-offs.

– **math·e·mat·i·cal·ly** /,mæθə'mætɪkli/ *adv* ▪ *mathematically* precise ▪ She solved the problem *mathematically*. ▪ a *mathematically* inclined person

math·e·ma·ti·cian /,mæθəmə'tɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-cians** [*count*] : a person who is an expert in mathematics

math·e·mat·ics /,mæθə'mætɪks/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the science of numbers, quantities, and shapes and the relations between them ▪ Algebra, arithmetic, calculus, geometry, and trigonometry are branches of *mathematics*. ▪ She has a degree in *mathematics*. ▪ a professor of *mathematics* ▪ *Mathematics* is my favorite subject. — often used before another noun ▪ a *mathematics* teacher ▪ the *mathematics* department at the university

maths /'mæθs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : MATHEMATICS ▪ being tested in English and *maths* [=(*US*) *math*]

mat·i·nee *or* **mat·i·née** /,mætn̩'neɪ, *Brit* 'mætə,neɪ/ *noun, pl* **-nees** *or* **-nées** [*count*] : a play, movie, etc., that is performed or shown in the afternoon

matinee idol *noun, pl* **~ idols** [*count*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : a handsome male actor who is popular with women

ma·tri·arch /'meɪtri,ɑɚk/ *noun, pl* **-archs** [*count*] : a woman who controls a family, group, or government ▪ Our grandmother was the family's *matriarch*. ▪ The tribe's *matriarch* ruled for 20 years before her death. — compare PATRIARCH

– **ma·tri·ar·chal** /,meɪtri'ɑɚkəl/ *adj* ▪ *matriarchal* societies [=societies that are controlled by women]

ma·tri·ar·chy /'meɪtri,ɑɚki/ *noun, pl* **-chies**

1 [*count*] : a family, group, or government controlled by a woman or a group of women ▪ For 20 years, the country was ruled as a *matriarchy*. ▪ ancient *matriarchies*

2 [*noncount*] : a social system in which family members are related to each other through their mothers ▪ a region in which *matriarchy* is practiced — compare PATRIARCHY

matrices *plural of* MATRIX

ma·tri·cide /'mætrə,saɪd/ *noun, pl* **-cides** [*count*] : the act of murdering your own mother — compare FRATRICIDE, PATRICIDE

ma·tric·u·late /mə'trɪkjə,leɪt/ *verb* **-lates; -lat·ed; -lat-**

ing [*no obj*] *formal* : to become a student at a school and especially in a college or university ▪ She *matriculated* in/at the college and began (to take) classes in the fall.
– **ma·tric·u·la·tion** /məˌtrɪkjəˈleɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

mat·ri·mo·nial /ˌmætrəˈmoʊnijəl/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : of or relating to marriage ▪ They took their *matrimonial* vows in the spring. [=they got married in the spring] ▪ *matrimonial* [=(more commonly) *marital, marriage*] problems/troubles ▪ *matrimonial* lawyers [=lawyers who specialize in marriage and divorce]

mat·ri·mo·ny /ˈmætrəˌmoʊni/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the joining together of a man and woman as husband and wife : MARRIAGE ▪ two people joined in *matrimony* ▪ They were united in (the bonds of) ***holy matrimony*** [=they were married in a religious ceremony] on the first of May.

ma·trix /ˈmeɪtrɪks/ *noun, pl* **-tri·ces** /-trəˌsiːz/ *also* **-trix·es** /-trɪksəz/ [*count*] *technical*
1 : something (such as a situation or a set of conditions) in which something else develops or forms ▪ the complex social *matrix* in which people live their lives
2 : something shaped like a pattern of lines and spaces ▪ The wires all crossed each other and formed a *matrix*.
3 : a container that can be filled with a material (such as very hot metal) to give the material a new shape : MOLD ▪ a *matrix* used for making knives
4 : rock in which something hard (such as a diamond or a fossil) has been formed ▪ pieces of light blue turquoise in a dark *matrix*
5 : the area on a human finger or toe from which the fingernail or toenail grows
6 *mathematics* : a set of numbers in which the numbers are listed in rows and columns and can be added or multiplied according to special rules
– see also DOT MATRIX

ma·tron /ˈmeɪtrən/ *noun, pl* **-trons** [*count*]
1 : an older married woman who usually has a high social position ▪ society *matrons* who organize benefits for charity
2 *US* : a woman whose job is to be in charge of children or other women ▪ the *matron* of a school for girls ▪ a prison *matron*
3 *Brit, old-fashioned* : a female nurse who is in charge of the other nurses in a hospital

ma·tron·ly /ˈmeɪtrənli/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : like or suitable for an older married woman ▪ She feared she was becoming a *matronly* old woman. ▪ She wore a *matronly* blue dress. ✧ *Matronly* is used as a polite way to describe a woman who is not young and is somewhat fat.

matron of honor (*US*) *or Brit* **matron of honour** *noun, pl* **matrons of honor** [*count*] : a married woman who is the main bridesmaid at a wedding ▪ Her cousin was her *matron of honor*. — compare MAID OF HONOR

matte (*chiefly US*) *or chiefly Brit* **matt** /ˈmæt/ *adj* : having a surface that is not shiny ▪ a *matte* fabric ▪ a photograph with a *matte* finish ▪ *matte* [=*dull*] black — opposite GLOSSY

mat·ted /ˈmætəd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : twisted together in an untidy way ▪ *matted* hair ▪ *matted* grass

[1]mat·ter /ˈmætɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters**
1 [*count*] : something that is being done, talked about, or thought about ▪ He has a few personal *matters* to deal with. ▪ Disagreement is one thing, but accusations of lying are a different *matter* altogether! ▪ Thanks for bringing this *matter* to our attention. [=for telling us about this problem or issue] ▪ That's ***a matter for*** a jury (to decide). ▪ The schedule is ***a matter of some concern***. [=is something that we are worried about] ▪ It's ***no easy/simple matter*** [=it's not easy] to find a decent place to live in this city. ▪ This is ***no joking/laughing matter***. = This is a serious *matter*. ▪ Getting the money to finance a project like this is ***no small matter***. [=is not an easy thing to do] — often used in an ironic way to refer to a difficult or important situation or problem ▪ He wants to buy a new car, but first there's ***the little/small matter*** of getting enough money to pay for it. [=he can't buy a new car until he has enough money to pay for it]
2 *matters* [*plural*] : the situation or subject that is being discussed or dealt with ▪ Let's not allow *matters* [=*things*] to get out of control. ▪ She's an expert in legal/financial/money *matters*. = (*formal*) She's an expert in *matters* legal/financial. ▪ It's best not to interfere in *matters* [=*affairs*] of the heart. ▪ It didn't exactly ***help matters*** [=it didn't make the situation better] when he accused her of lying! ▪ He laughed at her and then, ***to make matters worse***, he accused her of lying! [=it made the situation worse when he accused her of lying] ▪ ***To (further) complicate matters***, they both have the same name. = ***To complicate matters further***, they both have the same name. [=the situation is more complicated because they both have the same name] ▪ After months of waiting for something to happen, he decided to ***take matters into his own hands***. [=to do something himself instead of waiting for other people to do something]
3 [*noncount*] **a** *physics* : the thing that forms physical objects and occupies space ▪ Can *matter* and energy be changed into each other? **b** : material of a particular kind ▪ vegetable *matter* ▪ organic/waste *matter* ▪ printed/reading *matter* [=books, magazines, newspapers, etc.] — see also BACK MATTER, FRONT MATTER, GRAY MATTER, SUBJECT MATTER
4 *the matter* — used to ask if there is a problem or to say that there is or is not a problem ▪ What's *the matter*? [=what's the problem?; what's wrong?] ▪ "Is anything *the matter*?" [=is anything wrong?; is there a problem?] "No, nothing's *the matter*." — often + *with* ▪ Nothing's *the matter with* me. I'm fine. ▪ There's something *the matter with* the car. [=there's something wrong with the car; there's a problem with the car]

usage The question "What's the matter?" is usually asked in a friendly way. ▪ You look sad. *What's the matter?* [=what's wrong?] The question "What's the matter with you?" is usually asked in an unfriendly way by someone who is annoyed or angry. ▪ You keep making stupid mistakes. *What's the matter with you*? [=what's wrong with you?; why do you keep making stupid mistakes?]

a matter of **1** — used to refer to a small amount ▪ It cooks in *a matter of* (a few) minutes. [=it cooks in just a few minutes] ▪ They quarreled over *a matter of* a mere couple of dollars. ▪ The crisis was resolved in *a matter of* a few hours. ▪ The ball was foul by *a matter of* inches. **2** — used to say that one thing results from or requires another ▪ Learning to ride a bicycle is *a matter of* practice. [=learning to ride a bicycle requires practice] ▪ His success was just *a matter of* being in the right place at the right time. [=he succeeded because he was in the right place at the right time] ▪ It's only ***a matter of time*** before/until we catch him. [=we will catch him eventually] **3** — used to explain the reason for something ▪ She insists on honesty ***as a matter of principle***. [=because she believes that honesty is morally right] ▪ All requests for free tickets are turned down ***as a matter of policy***. [=because our policy requires it; because we have decided that that is what we should always do] **4** — used to say that something is based on opinion, taste, etc. ▪ "He's doing a terrible job." "That's ***a matter of opinion***." [=that's not a definite fact; that's something that people have different opinions about] ▪ Some people like seafood and some people don't. It's all just ***a matter of taste***. [=it is something that is based on personal taste] ▪ Her plans for the election are still ***a matter of conjecture***. [=people are not sure about her plans for the election] **5** — used to say that something is important, interesting, etc. ▪ The outcome of the trial is ***a matter of interest*** to many people. [=many people are interested in the outcome of the trial] ▪ Resolving this problem quickly is ***a matter of (some) urgency/importance***. [=it is urgent/important to resolve this problem quickly] ▪ I'd like to know how much it costs, just ***as a matter of interest***. [=because I am interested in knowing even though I do not need to know]
a matter of debate see [1]DEBATE
a matter of life and death see [1]LIFE
a matter of record : something that is known because it has been publicly said or reported in the past ▪ His opposition to the plan is *a matter of record*.
as a matter of course — used to say that something will or should happen because it is natural, usual, or logical ▪ You should take proper precautions *as a matter of course*. [=as part of your usual routine] ▪ We went out to dinner on her birthday, and *as a matter of course* [=*of course, naturally*] we paid for her meal.
as a matter of fact see FACT
for that matter — used with a statement that adds to a previous statement ▪ I haven't seen him for years—or her either, *for that matter*. [=I also haven't seen her for years]
mind over matter see [1]MIND
no matter **1** *informal* — used to say that something is not important ▪ "I may be delayed for a few minutes." "*No matter*. [=it doesn't matter] We still have plenty of time." **2** — used with *what, how, when*, etc., to say that something does not, will not, or should not affect something else ▪ I'm go-

M

ing to do it, *no matter what* you say. = *No matter what* you say, I'm going to do it. [=nothing you say will stop me from doing it] ▪ He intends to buy that car *no matter how* much it costs. ▪ Everyone is welcome here, *no matter where* they come from. ▪ He wants to win, ***no matter what***. [=he wants to win so much that he will do anything to win] — see also *no matter how you slice it* at ²SLICE

the fact of the matter is — used to emphasize a statement that follows ▪ She thinks she knows what she's talking about, but *the fact of the matter is*, she's wrong. ▪ The budget is very tight this year. *The fact of the matter is*, we may have to lay off a few employees.

the truth of the matter — used to stress the truth of a statement ▪ We may have to lay off a few employees this year. That's *the truth of the matter*. [=that's the truth] ▪ *The truth of the matter is*, she was wrong and he was right.

²matter *verb, not used in progressive tenses* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter·ing** [*no obj*] : to be important ▪ Our families and friends are the people who *matter* most to us. [=the people we care about most] ▪ Her wealth doesn't *matter* to me. = It doesn't *matter* to me that she's rich. [=I don't care that she is rich] ▪ It may not *matter* to you, but it *matters* a lot to me! ▪ "Which would you prefer?" "Either one is fine. It really doesn't *matter* (to me)." ▪ I don't care if you're a little late. All that *matters* is that you're safe. = The only thing that *matters* is that you're safe. = What *matters* is that you're safe. ▪ "Why are you being so quiet?" "Does it *matter*?" "Of course it *matters*!" ▪ ***What does it matter***? = It doesn't *matter*. [=it's not important; I don't care] ▪ I see that she's late again. ***Not that it matters*** (to me). [=she's late again, but that's all right] — often + *that* ▪ He acts as if it doesn't *matter that* he lied to us. — often + *how, who, what*, etc. ▪ It doesn't *matter how* old you are. ▪ It doesn't *matter what* I say to him. He just won't listen. ▪ It doesn't *matter whether* we stay at home or go out.

mat·ter–of–fact /ˌmætərəˈfækt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not showing emotion especially when talking about exciting or upsetting things ▪ We were surprised by the *matter-of-fact* way he told us the terrible news. ▪ Her voice had a *matter-of-fact* quality. ▪ His tone was calm and *matter-of-fact*.
– **mat·ter–of–fact·ly** /ˌmætərəˈfæktli/ *adv* ▪ She explained the problem *matter-of-factly*. – **mat·ter–of–fact·ness** /ˌmætərəvˈfæktnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

mat·ting /ˈmætɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : rough cloth used especially as floor covering ▪ bamboo *matting*

mat·tress /ˈmætrəs/ *noun, pl* **-tress·es** [*count*] : a cloth case that is filled with material and used as a bed — see picture at BED

mat·u·ra·tion /ˌmætʃəˈreɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the process of becoming mature : the process of developing in the body or mind ▪ the early stages of *maturation* : the process of developing to a desired level ▪ the *maturation* of wine/cheese ▪ the *maturation* of his skills

¹ma·ture /məˈtuɚ, məˈtʃuɚ/ *adj* **ma·tur·er**; **-est** [*or more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having or showing the mental and emotional qualities of an adult ▪ We were surprised by how *mature* [=*adult*] she had become. ▪ She's very *mature* for her age. ▪ He has a *mature* outlook on life. ▪ His parents didn't think he was *mature* enough to live on his own. — opposite IMMATURE
2 a : having a fully grown or developed body : grown to full size ▪ The dog will stand three feet tall when (it has become) *mature*. [=when it has matured] ▪ Their bodies were *mature*, but they still behaved like children. ▪ *mature* [=*adult*] animals ▪ *mature* trees/leaves ▪ the dog's *mature* size [=the dog's size when it is fully grown] ▪ ***sexually mature*** [=old enough or developed enough to produce a baby] — opposite IMMATURE
b : having reached a final or desired state ▪ a *mature* wine/cheese — opposite IMMATURE **c** : not young : middle-aged or older ▪ airline discounts for *mature* travelers [=for senior citizens who travel; for old people who travel] ▪ a man ***of mature years*** [=an older man]
3 a : based on careful thought ▪ a *mature* plan ▪ After/On *mature* reflection, he concluded that he had been mistaken.
b : showing the highest level of skill that a person develops ▪ an artist's *mature* work/style
4 *finance* : having reached the time when an amount of money (such as money for a government bond or an insurance policy) must be paid : due for payment ▪ The bond becomes *mature* in 10 years.
– **ma·ture·ly** *adv* ▪ They acted *maturely* and responsibly.

²mature *verb* **-tures**; **-tured**; **-tur·ing** [*no obj*] : to become mature: such as **a** : to become fully developed in the body and mind ▪ Girls *mature* earlier than boys both physically and mentally. — often + *into* ▪ He *matured into* a kind and intelligent young man. **b** : to continue developing to a desired level ▪ Her talent is *maturing* slowly. ▪ Wine and cheese *mature* with age. **c** *finance* : to become due for payment ▪ The bond *matures* in 10 years.

mature student *noun, pl* ~ **-dents** [*count*] *Brit* : a student at a college or university who starts studying there at a later age than usual

ma·tu·ri·ty /məˈturəti, məˈtʃurəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**
1 [*noncount*] : the condition of being mature: such as **a** : the state of being fully developed in the body or the mind ▪ His behavior shows a lack of *maturity*. ▪ He reached emotional *maturity* late in his life. ▪ the *maturity* level of a child ▪ full physical *maturity* **b** *finance* : the state of being due for payment ▪ The bond will reach *maturity* in 10 years.
2 [*count*] *finance* : the amount of time that must pass before something (such as a bond) becomes due for payment ▪ *Maturities* on these bonds can be as long as 10 years.

mat·zo *or* **mat·zoh** /ˈmɑːtsə/ *noun, pl* **mat·zoth** /ˈmɑːtˌsoʊt/ *or* **mat·zos** *or* **mat·zohs** [*count, noncount*] : a dry, thin bread eaten especially by Jewish people at Passover — often used before another noun ▪ a ***matzo ball*** [=a round dumpling made from matzo] ▪ ***matzo meal*** [=flour made from ground matzo]

maud·lin /ˈmɑːdlən/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : showing or expressing too much emotion especially in a foolish or annoying way ▪ He became *maudlin* and started crying like a child. ▪ a *maudlin* love story ▪ *maudlin* poetry

maul /ˈmɑːl/ *verb* **mauls**; **mauled**; **maul·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to attack and injure (someone) in a way that cuts or tears skin : to attack (someone) and cause a bloody injury ▪ The girl was *mauled* (to death) by a dog. ▪ A bear killed one hiker and badly *mauled* the other. — often used figuratively ▪ a movie that has been *mauled* by the critics ▪ Many investors were badly *mauled* by the recession.
2 : to touch or handle (someone) in a rough sexual way ▪ She was *mauled* [=*groped*] by some drunk as she left the bar.
– **mauling** *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] ▪ The movie received a *mauling* from critics.

maun·der /ˈmɑːndɚ/ *verb* **-ders**; **-dered**; **-der·ing** [*no obj*] *Brit* : to talk for a long time in a boring way — often + *on* ▪ I apologize for *maundering on* like this.

Maun·dy Thursday /ˈmɑːndi-/ *noun* [*singular*] *Christian religion* : the Thursday before Easter

mau·so·le·um /ˌmɑːsəˈliːjəm/ *noun, pl* **-le·ums** *also* **-lea** /-ˈliːjə/ [*count*] : a stone building with places for the dead bodies of several people or the body of an important person ▪ a family *mausoleum*

mauve /ˈmɑːv, ˈmoʊv/ *noun, pl* **mauves** [*count, noncount*] : a light or medium purple color — see color picture on page C3
– **mauve** *adj*

ma·ven /ˈmeɪvən/ *noun, pl* **-vens** [*count*] *US* : a person who knows a lot about a particular subject : EXPERT ▪ fashion/marketing *mavens* ▪ a wine *maven*

mav·er·ick /ˈmævrɪk/ *noun, pl* **-icks** [*count*] : a person who refuses to follow the customs or rules of a group ▪ He's always been a (bit of a) *maverick* in the world of fashion. ▪ political *mavericks* [=*nonconformists*]
– **maverick** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *maverick* director/musician ▪ *maverick* lawyers

maw /ˈmɑː/ *noun, pl* **maws** [*count*] *literary* : the mouth, jaws, or throat of an animal ▪ the gaping *maw* of the tiger — often used figuratively ▪ the dark *maw* of the cave ▪ prisoners falling into the gaping *maw* of the criminal justice system

mawk·ish /ˈmɑːkɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : sad or romantic in a foolish or exaggerated way ▪ a *mawkish* love story ▪ *mawkish* poetry
– **mawk·ish·ly** *adv* ▪ *mawkishly* romantic/sentimental – **mawk·ish·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

¹max /ˈmæks/ *noun* [*singular*] *chiefly US, informal* : the largest amount possible : MAXIMUM ▪ The boat can hold a *max* of 20 people. ▪ He bet the *max*. [=he bet the largest amount that he could]
to the max *informal* : as much as possible ▪ The theater was filled *to the max*. [=it was completely filled] ▪ She had three tests in one day and was stressed *to the max*. [=extremely stressed]

²max *adv, informal* : at the most : MAXIMUM ▪ You'll need to wait two weeks *max*. [=you will not have to wait longer than

two weeks] ▪ The boat can hold 20 people *max*. [=it can hold no more than 20 people]

[3]max *verb* **max·es; maxed; max·ing**

max out [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** : to reach an upper limit : to come to the highest level possible ▪ Most athletes *max out* before the age of 30. — often + *at* ▪ The car *maxed out at* 100 mph. [=the car could go no faster than 100 mph] ▪ Back in those days, teachers' salaries *maxed out at* $30,000 a year. **2** ***max (something) out*** *or* ***max out (something)*** **a** : to spend all of the money that your credit card allows you to borrow : to use up all available credit on (a credit card) ▪ She's *maxed out* three credit cards. **b** : to use or fill (something) as much as possible : to push (something) to a limit or an extreme ▪ The new increase in population has nearly *maxed out* the city's resources. [=has nearly used up all of the city's resources] ▪ The school is *maxed out* with students. [=the school does not have room for any more students] ▪ After years of competing, she has *maxed out* her potential as an ice-skater. ▪ Our schedule is *maxed out* [=is full] for this week.

max·im /ˈmæksəm/ *noun, pl* **-ims** [*count*] : a well-known phrase that expresses a general truth about life or a rule about behavior ▪ My mother's favorite *maxim* [=*saying*] was "Don't count your chickens before they hatch." [=don't assume that things will happen the way you expect them to happen]

max·i·mal /ˈmæksəməl/ *adj, technical* : greatest or highest possible ▪ a *maximal* heart rate
– **max·i·mal·ly** *adv*

max·i·mize *also Brit* **max·i·mise** /ˈmæksəˌmaɪz/ *verb* **-miz·es; -mized; -miz·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to increase (something) as much as possible : to increase (something) to a maximum ▪ The company is trying to *maximize* its profits. [=to make the most money possible]
2 : to use (something) in a way that will get the best result ▪ We planned out each day in order to *maximize* [=*make the most of*] our time on vacation. ▪ I rearranged the furniture to *maximize* the space in my small apartment. ▪ This program will teach you how to *maximize* your strengths while minimizing your weaknesses.
3 *computers* : to make (a program's window) very large : to make (a program's window) fill the screen of a computer — opposite MINIMIZE
– **max·i·mi·za·tion** *also Brit* **max·i·mi·sa·tion** /ˌmæksəməˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌmæksəˌmaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *maximization* of profits

[1]max·i·mum /ˈmæksəməm/ *noun, pl* **max·i·mums** *or technical* **max·i·ma** /-əmə/ [*count*] : the highest number or amount that is possible or allowed — usually singular ▪ Twenty years is the *maximum*. ▪ This security system gives you the *maximum* in protection. — often + *of* ▪ You may invite a *maximum of* 10 guests to the party. ▪ You may stay for a *maximum of* two weeks. ▪ She will serve a minimum of 10 and a *maximum of* 20 years in jail. — opposite MINIMUM

[2]maximum *adj, always used before a noun* : greatest possible in amount or degree ▪ He will receive the *maximum* (possible) punishment allowed by law. ▪ She took some *maximum*-strength medicine for her headache. ▪ The *maximum* number of points scored in one game is 100. ▪ shoes that are designed for *maximum* comfort ▪ What is the ***maximum occupancy*** of this room? [=what is the largest number of people who can legally be in this room at the same time?] ▪ a ***maximum security prison*** [=a prison that does as much as possible to keep prisoners from escaping and watches them very closely] — opposite MINIMUM

[3]maximum *adv* : at the most ▪ She will serve 20 years *maximum* in jail. [=she will not serve more than 20 years in jail]

may /ˈmeɪ/ *verb* [*modal verb*]
1 — used to indicate that something is possible or probable ▪ They *may* still succeed. ▪ Do you think they *may* [=*can, could, might*] still succeed? ▪ "Have they failed?" "They *may* have." = (*Brit*) "They *may* have done." [=it's possible that they failed] ▪ You *may* [=*might, could*] be right. ▪ If you work hard now, you *may* end up sitting in the boss's chair some day! ▪ What you see *may* (well/very well) surprise you. ▪ There *may* be some difficulties ahead. ▪ I think he *may* be trying to cheat us. ▪ It *may* possibly be true, mightn't it? [=(less formally) it could possibly be true, couldn't it?] ▪ *May* it not [=mightn't it, (less formally) couldn't it] after all turn out to be true? ▪ This vacation *may* [=*might*] not be so bad after all. ▪ When you're older, you *may* understand. ▪ We *may* go if they ask us, but then again we *may* not. ▪ As you ***may or may not*** have heard, we've won!
2 — used to say that one thing is true but something else is also true ▪ He *may* [=*might*] be slow, but he does very good work. = Slow though he *may* be, he (still) does very good work. [=although he's slow, he does very good work] ▪ It *may* [=*might*] be cold outside, but it's still a beautiful day. [=although it's cold outside, it's still a beautiful day] ▪ She *may* [=*might*] have been a great actress, but she was a terrible parent.
3 *formal* — used to indicate that something is allowed ▪ You *may* go now. [=you have permission to leave now] ▪ No one *may* enter without a ticket. ▪ The children *may* play wherever they choose. ▪ You *may* tell me your opinion, but I won't change my mind. — compare CAN 4b
4 *formal* — used to ask a question or make a request in a polite way ▪ "*May* [=*might*] I borrow your pen?" "Of course you *may*!" ▪ "*May* I help you," asked the waiter, "or are you already being served?" ▪ *May* I ask who is calling? ▪ "*May* I leave a little early today?" "No, you *may* not." — compare CAN 4a
5 *formal* — used to express a wish ▪ Long *may* the Queen reign! [=I hope the Queen will reign for a long time] ▪ *May* the best man win! ▪ *May* you have a long and happy life!
6 *formal* — used to make a polite suggestion ▪ You *may* [=*might*] want to think again and consider your options carefully. ▪ It *may* [=*might*] be wise to proceed cautiously.
7 *formal* — used in various polite expressions with *I* ▪ ***May I just say*** how pleased I am to be here. [=I would like to say how pleased I am to be here] ▪ ***If I may*** (interrupt you), would you please repeat the answer? ▪ I'd like to ask a question, *if I may*. ▪ This has been, ***if I may say so***, one of the happiest days of my life.
8 *formal* + *old-fashioned* — used to indicate the reason for something or the purpose of something ▪ We exercise so that we *may* [=*will*] be strong and healthy. [=we exercise in order to be strong and healthy] ▪ I work hard so that my family *may* [=*will*] not go hungry.
be that as it may *formal* — used to introduce a statement that is somehow different from what has just been said ▪ There has been some improvement in the economy in recent months, but, *be that as it may* [=*despite that, even so*], many people are still looking for work.
– see also *come what may* at [1]COME

May /ˈmeɪ/ *noun, pl* **Mays** : the fifth month of the year [*noncount*] in (early/middle/mid-/late) *May* ▪ early/late in *May* ▪ We arrived on *May* the fourth. = (*US*) We arrived on *May* fourth. = We arrived on the fourth of *May*. ▪ April showers bring *May* flowers. [=rain in April causes flowers to bloom in May] ▪ Shakespeare called it "the merry month of *May*." [*count*] The last two *Mays* have been cold and rainy.

Ma·ya /ˈmajə/ *noun, pl* **Maya** *or* **Ma·yas** [*count*] : a member of a group of people living mostly in southern Mexico and Guatemala
– **Ma·yan** /ˈmajən/ *adj* ▪ *Mayan* culture ▪ the *Mayan* calendar

[1]may·be /ˈmeɪbi/ *adv* : possibly but not certainly : PERHAPS

> *Maybe* is a more informal word than *perhaps*. It is used when you are talking about an action that has a chance of happening in the future. ▪ *Maybe* we'll meet again. ▪ "Will you go to the party?" "I don't know. *Maybe*." ▪ "Will you go?" "*Maybe, maybe* not." ▪ *Maybe* I'll go and *maybe* I won't. ▪ They're hoping that she'll *maybe* change her mind. = They're hoping that *maybe* she'll change her mind. ▪ You should hear from them soon, *maybe* even by next week. = *Maybe* you'll hear from them by next week. It is also used to suggest something that is possibly correct, true, or proper. ▪ *Maybe* we should just stay here and wait. ▪ *Maybe* it would be better if you left. ▪ There were *maybe* 10,000 fans at the game. ▪ I got three, *maybe* four hours [=about three or four hours] of sleep last night. ▪ *Maybe* it's time to stop fooling around. ▪ We waited an hour, *maybe* more. ▪ Did you ever think that ***maybe, just maybe***, it wasn't his fault? [=although it seems like it was his fault, did you ever consider the possibility that it wasn't?] And *maybe* can be used to say that one thing is true but that something else is also true. ▪ *Maybe* at first I didn't like her, but now she's one of my best friends. ▪ *Maybe* he's slow [=he may be slow], but he does very good work. ▪ Her accomplishments are impressive, *maybe*, but she's had a lot of help.

[2]maybe *noun, pl* **-bes** [*count*] : something that is not known for certain ▪ There are too many *maybes* [=*uncertainties*] about this project.

May·day /'meɪˌdeɪ/ — a word used to call for help when an airplane or ship is in danger • The pilot shouted "*Mayday! Mayday!*" over the radio. — compare SOS

May Day /'meɪˌdeɪ/ *noun* [*singular*] : May 1 celebrated in many countries as a spring festival and in some countries as a holiday in honor of working people

may·fly /'meɪˌflaɪ/ *noun, pl* **-flies** [*count*] : a small flying insect that lives for only a short time — see color picture on page C10

may·hem /'meɪˌhɛm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : actions that hurt people and destroy things : a scene or situation that involves a lot of violence • movies filled with murder and *mayhem* • committing *mayhem* • a criminal who escaped from prison and caused *mayhem* — often used figuratively • musical *mayhem* • There was *mayhem* [=a lot of excited activity] on the field after the winning goal was scored.

mayo /'mejoʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : MAYONNAISE • She ordered a turkey sandwich and told the waiter to ***hold the mayo***. [=to not include mayonnaise on the sandwich]

may·on·naise /'mejəˌneɪz/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a thick, white sauce used especially in salads and on sandwiches and made chiefly of eggs, vegetable oil, and vinegar or lemon juice
2 *Brit* : a food made by mixing something (such as chopped eggs) with mayonnaise • ***egg mayonnaise*** [=(*US*) *egg salad*] • ***tuna mayonnaise*** [=(*US*) *tuna salad*]

may·or /'mejɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ors** [*count*]
1 : an official who is elected to be the head of the government of a city or town • the *mayor* of New York
2 : a British official who represents a city or borough at public events — see also LORD MAYOR
– **may·or·al** /'mejərəl/ *adj* • *mayoral* elections

may·or·al·ty /'mejɚrəlti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** *formal*
1 [*noncount*] : the time during which a person is mayor • During her *mayoralty*, the mayor greatly improved the city.
2 [*count*] : the job or position of being mayor • He won the *mayoralty* in the last two elections.

may·or·ess /'mejərəs, *Brit* 'mɛərəs/ *noun, pl* **-ess·es** [*count*] *Brit*
1 : a woman who is a mayor
2 : the wife or official hostess of a mayor

may·pole *or* **May·pole** /'meɪˌpoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-poles** [*count*] : a tall pole decorated with ribbons and flowers that forms a center for the spring festival held on May 1

maze /'meɪz/ *noun, pl* **maz·es** [*count*]
1 : a complicated and confusing system of connected passages • The garden includes a *maze*. [=an area where there are tall walls or hedges on both sides of a path that keeps turning in different directions so that a person walking on the path cannot see where the path leads] • The experiment measured the time it took for a mouse to find its way through a *maze* to get its reward of cheese. • The school is a *maze* of classrooms. • I bought a book of *mazes*. [=a book of puzzles that are drawings which look like mazes]
2 : a confusing collection or mixture *of* things (such as rules) • a *maze of* rules and regulations

Mb *abbr* megabit

MB *abbr* **1** megabyte **2** *chiefly Brit* Bachelor of Medicine

M.B.A. *or* **MBA** *abbr* Master of Business Administration • He earned an *M.B.A.* from Harvard.

MC /ˌɛm'si:/ *noun, pl* **MC's** *or* **MCs** [*count*] : MASTER OF CEREMONIES

McCoy /mə'kɔɪ/ *noun*
the real McCoy *also US* ***the McCoy*** *informal* : something or someone that is real or genuine : something or someone that is not a copy or imitation • Is that a fake gun, or is it *the real McCoy*? [=is it a real gun?] • These diamonds look like *the real McCoy*, but they could be fake. • To help her play the role of a lawyer, the actress studied with *the real McCoy*. [=with an actual lawyer] • Maybe he's *the McCoy*, and maybe he's not.

MD *abbr* **1** *or US* ***M.D.*** Doctor of Medicine **2** Maryland **3** *Brit* Managing Director

[1]me /'mi:/ *pronoun, objective case of* I — used to refer to the speaker as the indirect object or direct object of a verb • She gave *me* a book. • They baked *me* a cake. • He sent *me* an e-mail. • They know *me* very well. • Can you help *me*? • She visited *me* in the hospital. — used to refer to the speaker as the object of a preposition • Are you talking to *me*? • Please come with *me*. • He talked with *me* for an hour.

usage In ordinary speech *me* is used instead of *I* after the verb *to be*. • "Who's there?" "It's *me*." [="I am."] • Why is it always *me* who has to do the dirty work? [=why am I always the one who has to do the dirty work?] • This dress is pretty, but it's not really *me*. [=it doesn't look like the clothes I usually wear; it doesn't look right for me] *Me* is also used alone without a verb in spoken questions, answers, etc. • "Who's there?" "*Me*." • "Who did it?" "Not *me*!" • "Come here!" "Who? *Me*?" "Yes, you!" "Why *me*?" • "I'm hungry." "***Me too***." The expression *It is I* is extremely formal and old-fashioned and is unlikely to be used in speech except in a joking way. *Me* is also sometimes used in very informal speech in place of *I* if the subject of a sentence has two parts that are connected by *and*. • My brother and *me* went camping last weekend. = *Me* and my brother went camping last weekend. But in ordinary polite use, *I* is required in such sentences. • My brother and *I* went camping last weekend.

– see also *me either* at [4]EITHER, *me neither* at [4]EITHER

[2]me *chiefly Brit spelling of* MI

[1]ME /ˌɛm'i:/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit, medical* : CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME ✧ *ME* is an abbreviation of "myalgic encephalomyelitis."

[2]ME *abbr* **1** Maine **2** *US* medical examiner

mea cul·pa /ˌmejə'kʊlpə/ *noun, pl* **mea cul·pas** [*count*] : a statement in which you say that something is your fault • The mayor's public *mea culpa* didn't satisfy his critics. • (*humorous*) Okay, so maybe I misjudged you. *Mea culpa*!

mead /'mi:d/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an alcoholic drink made from honey

mead·ow /'mɛdoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-ows** [*count*] : a usually flat area of land that is covered with tall grass

mead·ow·lark /'mɛdoʊˌlɑɚk/ *noun, pl* **-larks** [*count*] : a North American bird that has a brown back and a yellow breast

mea·ger (*US*) *or Brit* **mea·gre** /'mi:gɚ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : very small or too small in amount • Every morning he eats a *meager* breakfast of toast and coffee. • We'll have to do the best we can with this year's *meager* harvest. • *meager* wages • She came to this country with a fairly *meager* English vocabulary, but she is learning more words every day.
2 : not having enough of something (such as money or food) for comfort or happiness • They suffered through several *meager* years at the beginning of their marriage. • Although she's now rich and famous, she remembers her *meager* beginnings as a child from a poor family.
– **mea·ger·ly** *adv* • They lived *meagerly* in order to save money. – **mea·ger·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

synonyms MEAGER, SCANTY, and SPARSE mean not having enough of what is normal, necessary, or wanted. MEAGER suggests a lack of good or necessary things. • They lived on a *meager* diet of rice and vegetables. • She earned a *meager* income of five dollars a day. SCANTY stresses that something is not large enough in size or amount. • She was wearing a *scanty* black dress. • We had a *scanty* supply of water. SPARSE suggests a small number of things or people that are far apart. • His hair had become white and *sparse*. • It's a large country with a *sparse* population.

[1]meal /'mi:l/ *noun, pl* **meals** [*count*]
1 : the foods eaten or prepared for eating at one time • He eats/has three full *meals* a day. • Dad cooked/prepared/made a delicious *meal* of chicken and potatoes. • The waitress served our *meal*. • a three-course *meal* • This soup is ***a meal in itself***. [=all that is needed for a meal] — see also SQUARE MEAL
2 : a time or occasion when food is eaten : the act or time of eating a meal • Breakfast is her favorite *meal*. • the midday/evening *meal* • She makes us drink a glass of milk at every *meal*. • We went to Grandma's for a big holiday *meal*. • If you want to lose weight, don't eat between *meals*.
make a meal (out) of **1** : to eat (a particular food) as your meal without anything else • This bread is so good, I could *make a meal of* it. **2** *Brit, informal* : to do (something) in a way that makes it seem more important or difficult than it really is • It's not all that hard, you know! Don't *make a meal of* it!
– compare [2]MEAL

[2]meal *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : a coarse flour made from ground seeds — see also CORNMEAL
2 : something that looks or feels like meal — see also BONEMEAL
– compare [1]MEAL

meals–on–wheels *noun* — used as the name of a service that delivers meals to the homes of old or sick people who are unable to prepare their own meals

meal ticket *noun, pl* ~ **-ets** [*count*]
1 *informal* : a person or thing that is depended on as a source of money, success, etc. ▪ a star player who is expected to be the team's *meal ticket* for many years ▪ An advanced degree was his *meal ticket*.
2 : a piece of paper that you can exchange for a meal ▪ We bought three *meal tickets* at the fair.

meal·time /'mi:l,taɪm/ *noun, pl* **-times** : the usual time when a meal is eaten [*noncount*] Take one pill at *mealtime*. [*count*] The two children have different *mealtimes*.

mealy /'mi:li/ *adj* **meal·i·er**; **-est** : feeling rough and dry in your mouth ▪ the *mealy* flesh of a pear ▪ a *mealy* potato
– **meal·i·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

mealy·mouthed /'mi:li,maʊðd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : not willing to tell the truth in clear and simple language ▪ a *mealymouthed* politician

[1]mean /'mi:n/ *verb* **means**; **meant** /'mɛnt/; **mean·ing**
1 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] : to have (a particular meaning) ▪ What does this word *mean* in English? = What is *meant* in English by this word? ▪ The word *meant* one thing in Shakespeare's day, but it *means* something else now. ▪ The abbreviation "U.S." *means* [=*stands for*] "United States." ▪ Red *means* "stop" and green *means* "go." ▪ Can you tell me what my dream *means*? ▪ "Bonjour" is a French word *meaning* "hello." = "Bonjour" is a French word that *means* "hello."
2 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] : to want or intend to express (a particular idea or meaning) ▪ I *meant* what I said. [=I was sincere when I said it] ▪ What was *meant* by the poet? ▪ Don't distort what she *meant* by taking her words out of context. ▪ When she says the play was "interesting," she *means* (that) it wasn't very good. ▪ He's very ambitious, and I *mean* that as a compliment. ▪ It's a very easy question. Anyone, and I *mean* anyone, should be able to answer it. ▪ You hold it like this. (***Do you*** ***See what I mean***? [=do you understand what I'm showing you?] ▪ She's not getting any thinner, ***if you know/get what I mean*** ▪ "He can be a little difficult. (***Do you*** ***Know what I mean***?" ▪ "He can be a little difficult." "***What/How do you mean***?" = "***Meaning?***" [=what exactly do you mean when you say that?] ▪ "He can be a little difficult." "***I know what you mean***." [=I agree] ▪ "He can be a little difficult." "***What's that supposed to mean***?" [=I am surprised that you would say that; I don't agree with what you are saying]
3 [+ *obj*] : to have (something) in your mind as a purpose or goal ▪ Just what do you *mean* (by) coming into my room without knocking? [=what is your reason for coming into my room without knocking?] ▪ She says she didn't *mean* anything by what she did. ▪ She didn't *mean* (you) any harm. = She *meant* no harm (to you). [=she did not intend to cause any harm (to you)] ▪ I'm sorry if I hurt your feelings. I *meant* (you) no offense/disrespect. ▪ I don't trust him. He *means* no good. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ He didn't *mean* [=*intend*] *to do* any harm. ▪ She *means to win*. ▪ I keep *meaning to visit* you—I just never seem to get around to it. ▪ He says he never *meant to hurt* her.
4 *not used in progressive tenses* **a** : to plan for or want (someone or something) to do or to be something [+ *obj*] — often + *as* ▪ His comment was *meant* [=*intended*] *as* a joke. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ We *meant* her *to come* with us. ▪ She *meant* her remarks *to be* funny. ▪ "What you said hurt his feelings!" "Well, I *meant* it *to*!" [*no obj*] (*chiefly US*) — + *for* ▪ We *meant for* her to come with us. **b** [+ *obj*] : to want (something that you control, provide, or have made) to be used for a particular purpose or by a particular person — often + *for* ▪ I *meant* [=*intended*] the flowers *for* you, not for your sister. ▪ The book was *meant for* children, but it is popular with adults too. ▪ His criticism is *meant for* all of us. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ They *meant* the book *to be* a present. — sometimes + *as* ▪ They *meant* the book *as* a present.
5 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] : to make a statement to or about (someone) ▪ "Hey, you!" "I'm sorry: do you *mean* me?" [=are you talking to me?] ▪ "Some people here are too bossy!" "Do you *mean* me?" [=are you referring to me?]
6 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] **a** : to indicate or show (something that is going to happen) ▪ Those clouds *mean* rain. = Those clouds *mean* (that) it's going to rain. ▪ When he gets that angry look in his eyes, you know it *means* trouble. [=you know that there will be trouble] **b** : to cause or result in (something) ▪ The bad weather could *mean* further delays. **c** : to involve or require (something) as a necessary part ▪ Becoming a concert pianist *means* practicing a lot. [=if you're going to become a concert pianist you have to practice a lot] ▪ I'll get the work done today even if it *means* staying late.
7 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] — used to say or ask how important something is to someone; usually + *to* ▪ How much does your health *mean to* you? [=how important is your health to you?] ▪ It *means* a lot *to* me to know that you believe me. ▪ "I believe you." "Thank you. You don't know how much that *means to* me." ▪ Your good opinion *means* a great deal *to* me. ▪ He claims that money ***means nothing to*** him. [=that he does not care at all about money] ▪ Her words *meant nothing to* me. [=I did not care what she said] ▪ I thought our friendship ***meant something to*** you. [=I thought that you cared about our friendship] ▪ His wife ***means everything to*** him. = His wife ***means the world to*** him. [=he loves his wife very much]

I mean *informal* **1** — used to emphasize a statement ▪ He has to stop drinking. *I mean*, he's going to kill himself if he keeps it up. ▪ He throws, *I mean*, really hard! **2** — used to correct a previous statement ▪ We met in Toronto—*I mean* Montreal. **3** — used when you are unsure of what to say or how to say it ▪ I'm not mad. It's just that, *I mean*, I think you've been acting a little selfishly.

know what it means : to understand what it is like to do or be something ▪ I *know what it means* to be poor. — usually used in negative statements ▪ You don't *know what it means* to be truly alone. — sometimes used in an exaggerated way to make a forceful statement ▪ I don't *know what it means* to surrender! [=I will never surrender]

mean business see BUSINESS

meant for (someone) *informal* : perfectly suited for (someone) ▪ You were *meant for* me and I was *meant for* you. ▪ I'm not surprised that they have such a happy marriage. I always knew that they were ***meant for each other***. — see also [1]MEAN 4b (above)

meant to be/do something **1** : intended to do or be something ▪ I was never *meant to* teach. ▪ They knew as soon as they met that they were *meant to* be together. ▪ I thought we could be friends, but I guess it just wasn't ***meant to be***. [=it was not destined to happen] **2** *Brit* : supposed to be or do something ▪ The buses are *meant* [=*expected*] *to* arrive every 15 minutes. ▪ Brighton is *meant to* be very beautiful at this time of year. [=people say that Brighton is very beautiful at this time of year]

mean well : to want to do good or helpful things : to have good intentions ▪ He *means well*, but he's not really helping anyone. — see also WELL-MEANING

[2]mean *adj* **mean·er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]
1 *somewhat informal* **a** : not kind to people : cruel or harsh ▪ My boss is a *mean* and nasty old man who treats everyone badly. ▪ the *mean* stepmother in the fairy tale ▪ Why are you being so *mean* to me? [=why are you treating me so harshly?] ▪ It was *mean* of them not to invite her to the party. ▪ Someone played a *mean* trick on her. ▪ He has a *mean* streak. **b** *chiefly US* : very dangerous : VICIOUS ▪ a *mean* dog
2 *chiefly Brit* : not liking to spend money : STINGY, CHEAP ▪ He's a *mean* man who never gives presents to anyone. ▪ He's very *mean* with his money.
3 *old-fashioned* + *literary* : of poor quality or status ▪ *mean* city streets ▪ living in *mean* circumstances
4 *chiefly US, informal* : excellent or impressive ▪ He plays a *mean* trumpet. = He's a *mean* trumpet player. [=he plays the trumpet very well] ▪ an athlete who describes himself as a ***lean, mean*** scoring machine ▪ We wanted our business to be ***lean and mean***. [=to be efficient and successful]

no mean *informal* — used to say that something is good or impressive ▪ a tennis player of *no mean* ability [=a very good tennis player] ▪ Getting the project done on time will be ***no mean feat*** [=will be a difficult and impressive accomplishment]

– compare [3]MEAN
– **mean·ly** /'mi:nli/ *adv* ▪ behaving/living *meanly* ▪ a *meanly* ambitious man – **mean·ness** /'mi:nnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *meanness* of her character ▪ *meanness* of spirit

M

[3]mean *adj, always used before a noun* : occurring exactly between the highest and lowest number : AVERAGE • the *mean* temperature — compare [2]MEAN

[4]mean *noun, pl* **means** [*count*]
1 : [1]AVERAGE 1 • Take all these temperatures and calculate/find their *mean*.
2 : a middle point between two things • trying to find ***a golden mean*** between doing too little and doing too much
– see also MEANS

me•an•der /mi'ændɚ/ *verb* **-ders**; **-dered**; **-der•ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to have a lot of curves instead of going in a straight or direct line : to follow a winding course • The path *meanders* through the garden. • a *meandering* stream
2 : to walk slowly without a specific goal, purpose, or direction • We *meandered* around/through the village.
3 : to go from one topic to another without any clear direction • The conversation *meandered* on for hours. • He delivered a *meandering* [=*rambling*] speech about his early career.
– **me•an•der** *noun, pl* **-ders** [*count*] • We went for a *meander* in the park.

mean•ie /'mi:ni/ *noun, pl* **-ies** [*count*] *informal* : a mean or unkind person — used especially by children • You're nothing but a big *meanie*!

mean•ing /'mi:nɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**
1 : the idea that is represented by a word, phrase, etc. [*count*] What is the precise/exact *meaning* of this word in English? • Many words have developed more than one *meaning*. [=*sense*] • an old word that has taken on a new *meaning* • The word has both literal *meanings* and figurative *meanings*. [*noncount*] a word with various shades of *meaning*
2 a : the idea that a person wants to express by using words, signs, etc. [*count*] Don't distort her *meaning* by taking her words out of context. • Do you get my *meaning*? = (*chiefly Brit*) Do you take my *meaning*? [=do you understand what I'm telling you?] • I didn't understand the *meaning* of his remark/gesture. [*noncount*] a glance full of *meaning* [=a meaningful glance] **b** : the idea that is expressed in a work of writing, art, etc. [*count*] Literary critics disagree about the *meanings* of his poems. [*noncount*] a poem with subtle shades of *meaning*
3 [*noncount*] **a** : the true purpose of something • What is the *meaning* of life? • It's a story about the true *meaning* of Christmas. **b** : a quality that gives something real value and importance • He began to feel that his life had lost its *meaning*. • a life without *meaning* = a life devoid of *meaning* [=a meaningless life] • Working with children has given her life new *meaning*. **c** : the reason or explanation for something • What is the *meaning* of this intrusion?
know the meaning of (something) : to understand (something) because you have experienced it • I *know the meaning of* loneliness. [=I know what it is like to be lonely] — often used in negative statements • Those people don't *know the meaning of* hard work. — often used in an exaggerated way to make a forceful statement • He doesn't *know the meaning of* fear. [=he is very brave] • I'll never stop trying. I don't ***know the meaning of the word*** "failure." [=I am determined not to fail]

mean•ing•ful /'mi:nɪŋfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having a clear meaning • The test did not produce any *meaningful* results.
2 : expressing an emotion or idea without words • She looked at him in a *meaningful* way. • a *meaningful* expression/glance/pause
3 : having real importance or value • He wanted to feel that his job was *meaningful*. • The trip turned out to be very *meaningful* for/to both of them. • a *meaningful* relationship/discussion
– **mean•ing•ful•ly** *adv* • She paused *meaningfully* before answering the question. – **mean•ing•ful•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

mean•ing•less /'mi:nɪŋləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having no meaning • a *meaningless* phrase
2 : having no real importance or value • He felt that his work was *meaningless*. • The movie was filled with *meaningless* violence. • Their offer to help us was just a *meaningless* [=*empty*] gesture.
– **mean•ing•less•ly** *adv* • a *meaninglessly* violent movie – **mean•ing•less•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

means /'mi:nz/ *noun, pl* **means**
1 [*count*] : a way of doing something or of achieving a desired result • trains, buses, and other *means* of transportation • a *means* of communication/expression • using fingerprints as a *means* of identification • "What's the best *means* of getting there?" "Public transportation." • The property was obtained by illegal *means*. • He vowed that he would succeed ***by any means necessary***. [=by doing whatever was needed] • He would use all/any ***manner of means*** to succeed. • For her, marrying a rich man was just ***a means to an end***. [=something done only to produce a desired result] All she really cared about was money. • How can she survive when she has no visible ***means of support***? [=she has no apparent way to pay for the things that she needs to live] — see also WAYS AND MEANS, *the end justifies the means* at [1]END
2 [*plural*] : the money that someone has : WEALTH • He has the *means* to give you everything you want. • His *means* are enough to pay for college. • a man/woman ***of means*** [=a wealthy man/woman] • She is a woman ***of independent means***. [=she has enough money to support herself without help from others] • He enjoys a style of living that is ***beyond the means*** of all but the wealthiest people. [=that only the wealthiest people can afford] • She was ***living beyond her means***. [=she was spending more money than she could afford to spend] • He began to save money when he finally learned to ***live within his means***. [=to spend money only on what he could afford]
by all means : of course : CERTAINLY • "May I come in?" "*By all means*!" • *By all means* feel free to get a second opinion.
by means of : through the use of (something) • He got out of trouble *by means of* a clever trick.
by no means *or* ***not by any means*** *also* ***not by any manner of means*** : in no way : not at all • It's *by no means* certain that he'll come. = It's *not by any means* certain that he'll come. • This is *by no means* the first time we have had this problem. • I was *not* happy about the arrangements *by any means*, but I agreed to do it. • This issue has *not* been resolved yet *by any manner of means*.

mean–spir•it•ed /'mi:n'spirətəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling or showing a cruel desire to cause harm or pain • a *mean-spirited* person • a *mean-spirited* book review

means test *noun, pl* ~ **tests** [*count*] : a process done to find out the amount of money a person has in order to see if that person qualifies for government assistance
– **means–test•ed** /'mi:nz'tɛstəd/ *adj* • a *means-tested* program • *means-tested* assistance/benefits [=assistance/benefits based on the results of a means test]

meant *past tense and past participle of* [1]MEAN

[1]mean•time /'mi:n,taɪm/ *noun*
for the meantime : for the present time : until some time in the future • You should continue to take the medicine *for the meantime*. [=*for now*]
in the meantime **1** : during the time before something happens or before a specified period ends • He can come back to work when he's feeling better, but *in the meantime* he should be resting as much as possible. • The project is scheduled for completion in three months, and there's a great deal of work to be done *in the meantime*. • The new computers won't arrive until next week, but we can keep using the old ones *in the meantime*. **2** : while something else is being done or was being done • She spent four years studying for her law degree. *In the meantime*, she continued to work at the bank.

[2]meantime *adv, somewhat informal* : [1]MEANWHILE • He can come back to work when he's feeling better. *Meantime*, he should be resting as much as possible.

[1]mean•while /'mi:n,wajəl/ *adv* : at or during the same time : in the meantime • You can set the table. *Meanwhile*, I'll start making dinner. • She spent four years studying for her law degree. *Meanwhile*, she continued to work at the bank. • He can come back to work when he's feeling better, but *meanwhile* he should be resting as much as possible.

[2]meanwhile *noun*
in the meanwhile : at or during the same time : in the meantime • The new computers won't arrive until next week, but we can keep using the old ones *in the meanwhile*.

mea•sles /'mi:zəlz/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a disease that causes a fever and red spots on the skin • He has (the) *measles*. • get/catch the *measles* — see also GERMAN MEASLES

mea•sly /'mi:zli/ *adj* **mea•sli•er**; **-est** *informal + disapproving* : very small or too small in size or amount • He left a *measly* [=*lousy*] dime for a tip. • She complained about being given such a *measly* raise. • All I want is a few *measly* minutes of your time.

mea•sur•able /ˈmɛʒərəbəl/ *adj* : large enough to be measured or noticed • We haven't had a *measurable* amount of rain in the past several weeks. • There has been a *measurable* [=*significant*] improvement in the company's performance.
– **mea•sur•ably** /ˈmɛʒərəbli/ *adv* • His job performance has improved *measurably*.

[1]mea•sure /ˈmɛʒɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sures**
1 : an amount or degree of something [*count*] She felt equal *measures* of hope and fear. — usually singular • The province has gained a large *measure* of freedom. • Their children want a greater *measure* of independence. [=they want more independence] • The coating provides a *measure* of protection [=provides some protection] against corrosion. • The proposal has been met with a *measure* [=a certain amount] of skepticism. • The alarm system provides an added *measure* of security. [=provides more security] [*noncount*] The show mixes comedy and drama in equal *measure*. [=in equal amounts] • He returned their hostility in full *measure*. [=he was as hostile toward them as they were toward him] • The company's success is due in no small *measure* to her talents. [=its success is largely due to her talents] • Their actions were motivated in large *measure* by a desire for revenge. • An occasion like this calls for some *measure* of decorum.
2 [*count*] **a** : something (such as a cup or a ruler) that is used to measure things — see also TAPE MEASURE **b** : a unit used in measuring something • The meter is a *measure* of length. • The dictionary includes a table of weights and *measures*. — see also MADE-TO-MEASURE
3 [*count*] : an action planned or taken to achieve a desired result • The legislature has passed a *measure* aimed at protecting consumers. • The governor has proposed a number of cost-cutting *measures*. • They were forced to resort to desperate/extreme *measures*. • protective/punitive/preventive *measures* • We need to ***take measures*** to protect ourselves.
4 [*count*] : a sign or indication *of* something — usually singular • Wealth is not a *measure of* happiness. • Her willingness to compromise is a *measure of* how much she's changed.
5 [*count*] : a way of judging something • The company is a success by any *measure*. • Are IQ tests the best *measure* of intelligence?
6 [*count*] *chiefly US, music* : a part of a line of written music that is between two vertical lines or the group of beats between these lines • a brief clarinet solo in the third *measure* • Can you hum a few *measures* [=*bars*] of that song?
beyond measure *formal* : to a very great degree • an artist who is talented *beyond* (all) *measure* [=who is exceptionally talented] • Her joy was *beyond measure*. [=she was very happy]
for good measure : as something added or extra • He performed his most recent songs, and then threw in a couple of old ones *for good measure*.
have/take/get the measure of (someone) *or* ***have/take/get someone's measure*** *chiefly Brit* : to have or get a good understanding about what is needed to defeat or deal with (someone you are competing against) • She failed to *take the measure of* her opponent. [=she failed to realize how good her opponent was]

[2]measure *verb* **-sures; -sured; -sur•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to find out the size, length, or amount of (something) • using a ruler to *measure* a piece of paper • an instrument for *measuring* air pressure • I *measured* [=*estimated*] the distance with my eye. • mental abilities *measured* by IQ testing **b** : to find out the size of (someone) for clothing • He's being *measured* for a new suit.
2 [+ *obj*] : to judge the importance, value, or extent of (something) • It's difficult to *measure* [=*evaluate*] the importance of these events. • His success cannot be *measured* solely on the basis of his popularity. — often + *against* • Her accomplishments need to be *measured against* [=*compared with*] those of her predecessor.
3 [*linking verb*] : to have a specified size • The cloth *measures* 3 meters. • The room *measures* 15 feet wide by 30 feet long.
measure off [*phrasal verb*] ***measure off (something)*** *also* ***measure (something) off*** : to measure (something) and mark its edges or its beginning and ending • They *measured off* a half-acre plot for the house lot. • He *measured off* three yards of cloth.
measure out [*phrasal verb*] ***measure out (something)*** *also* ***measure (something) out*** : to measure and remove (something) from a larger amount • She carefully *measured out* three cups of flour.
measure up [*phrasal verb*] : to be as good as expected or needed • His early works were promising, but his recent films haven't *measured up*. [=his recent films haven't been as good as his early ones] — often + *to* • His recent films haven't *measured up to* his earlier works. • Her work didn't *measure up to* our expectations. [=was not as good as we expected it to be]
– **mea•sur•er** /ˈmɛʒɚɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

mea•sured /ˈmɛʒɚd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : done with thought and care • This crisis requires a *measured* response. • She spoke in carefully *measured* tones.

mea•sure•less /ˈmɛʒɚləs/ *adj* : too great or large to be measured • the *measureless* [=*immeasurable*] universe • She seems to have *measureless* [=*boundless*] energy.

mea•sure•ment /ˈmɛʒɚmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**
1 [*noncount*] : the act or process of measuring something • The test is for the *measurement* of a student's progress. • Carpentry requires careful *measurement*. • The instruments provide accurate *measurement* of atmospheric conditions.
2 [*count*] : a size, length, or amount known by measuring something • The room's *measurements* are 30 by 15 feet. • The instruments are used for taking *measurements* of atmospheric conditions. • Accurate *measurements* are required in carpentry. • The tailor took his *measurements*, and his waist *measurement* is 36 inches.

measuring cup *noun, pl* ~ **cups** [*count*] *US* : a cup that has markings for measuring ingredients when cooking; *also* : a cup that holds a particular amount of an ingredient used in cooking • a set of *measuring cups* ranging from ¼ cup to 1 cup — see picture at KITCHEN; compare MEASURING JUG

measuring jug *noun, pl* ~ **jugs** [*count*] *Brit* : a cup that has markings for measuring liquids when cooking — compare MEASURING CUP

measuring tape *noun, pl* ~ **tapes** [*count*] : TAPE MEASURE

meat /ˈmi:t/ *noun, pl* **meats**
1 a [*noncount*] : the flesh of an animal used as food • She doesn't eat *meat*. • a piece/slice of *meat* • raw *meat* • (*US*) ground *meat* • *meat* sauce [=sauce that contains meat] ✧ *Meat* often refers specifically to the flesh of mammals or birds instead of the flesh of fish. It can also sometimes refer only to the flesh of mammals. • She eats fish but not *meat*. • The soup can be made with *meat*, chicken, or fish. **b** [*count*] : a type of meat • The restaurant serves a variety of *meats*. • sandwich *meats* — see also DARK MEAT, LUNCHEON MEAT, WHITE MEAT
2 [*noncount*] : the part of something (such as a nut) that can be eaten • coconut *meat*
3 [*noncount*] : the most important or interesting part *of* something • The real *meat of* the book is found in its discussion of his economic plan.
4 [*noncount*] *US* : the thickest part *of* something (such as a baseball bat) • He hit the ball right on the *meat of* the bat.
– see also DEAD MEAT

meat and potatoes *noun* [*noncount*] *US, informal* : the most basic or important part of something : MEAT • Basic conservation is still the *meat and potatoes* of their environmental plan. • the *meat and potatoes* of the contract/argument

meat–and–potatoes *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US, informal*
1 : of, relating to, or preferring simple food (such as meat and potatoes) instead of fancy food • a *meat-and-potatoes* diet • The restaurant appeals to the *meat-and-potatoes* crowd. • I'm a *meat-and-potatoes* guy.
2 : ordinary or simple • *meat-and-potatoes* rock and roll

meat•ball /ˈmi:tˌbɑ:l/ *noun, pl* **-balls** [*count*] : a small ball of chopped or ground meat • spaghetti and *meatballs*

meat•head /ˈmi:tˌhɛd/ *noun, pl* **-heads** [*count*] *informal* : a stupid person • Her brother's a real *meathead*.

meat loaf *noun, pl* ~ **loaves** *also* ~ **loafs** [*count, noncount*] : meat that is chopped in very small pieces, mixed with spices, chopped onions, eggs, etc., and baked in the form of a loaf • a slice of *meat loaf*

meat market *noun, pl* ~ **-kets** [*count*]
1 : a place where meat is sold
2 *US, informal* : a place where people are judged only on the basis of their physical qualities (such as sexual attractiveness or athletic ability) • That bar/club is a real *meat market*. • The scouting camp is a *meat market* for pro football candidates.

meat•pack•ing /ˈmi:tˌpækɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : the business of killing animals for meat and getting the meat

ready to be sold — often used before another noun ▪ the *meatpacking* industry/business

meaty /ˈmi:ti/ *adj* **meat·i·er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*]
1 a : of, relating to, or resembling meat ▪ *meaty* flavors/aromas ▪ a *meaty* hunk of fish ▪ The mushrooms have a *meaty* texture. **b :** having or including a large amount of meat ▪ *meaty* bones ▪ a *meaty* diet/stew
2 : large and heavy or thick with flesh or muscles ▪ an athlete with *meaty* forearms/hands
3 : having a lot of interesting ideas or information ▪ a *meaty* novel ▪ an actor auditioning for a *meaty* role ▪ The *meatiest* part of the book is the historical background it gives.
– **meat·i·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *meatiness* of the stew

mec·ca /ˈmɛkə/ *noun, pl* **-cas**
1 ***Mecca*** [*singular*] **:** a city in Saudi Arabia that was the birthplace of Muhammad and is the holiest city of Islam
2 [*count*] **:** a place that attracts many people ▪ The valley is a *mecca* for wine lovers. ▪ The town has become a *mecca* for tourists. ▪ tourist *meccas*

me·chan·ic /mɪˈkænɪk/ *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] **:** a person who repairs machines (such as car engines) and keeps them running properly ▪ an automotive *mechanic* — see also MECHANICS

me·chan·i·cal /mɪˈkænɪkəl/ *adj*
1 a : of or relating to machinery ▪ The flight was delayed because of *mechanical* problems/difficulties. ▪ a *mechanical* failure/breakdown ▪ I was impressed by her *mechanical* know-how. ▪ He's a *mechanical* genius. [=he is a person who is very smart about machines] ▪ *mechanical* parts/components **b :** having or using machinery ▪ a *mechanical* toy/clock/device
2 [*more ~; most ~*] *disapproving* **:** happening or done without thought or without any effort to be different or interesting ▪ She gave a *mechanical* reply. ▪ Copying down the numbers is a boring and *mechanical* job. ▪ The actor gave a stiff and *mechanical* performance.
3 *technical* **:** of or relating to physical energy and forces **:** relating to the science of mechanics ▪ *mechanical* properties
– **me·chan·i·cal·ly** /mɪˈkænɪkli/ *adv* ▪ a *mechanically* complex apparatus ▪ He's not *mechanically* inclined. [=he is not knowledgeable about machinery]

mechanical drawing *noun, pl* **~ -ings** *US* **:** drawing done by using special instruments that allow you to draw a machine, building, etc., in a very precise and accurate way [*noncount*] She's taking a class in *mechanical drawing*. [*count*] a detailed series of *mechanical drawings*

mechanical engineering *noun* [*noncount*] **:** a type of engineering that is mainly concerned with the use of machines in industry
– **mechanical engineer** *noun, pl* **~ -neers** [*count*]

mechanical pencil *noun, pl* **~ -cils** [*count*] *US* **:** a pencil made of metal or plastic with a lead that is moved forward by a mechanical device — called also (*Brit*) *propelling pencil*

me·chan·ics /mɪˈkænɪks/ *noun*
1 [*noncount*] **:** a science that deals with physical energy and forces and their effect on objects — see also QUANTUM MECHANICS
2 [*plural*] **:** the details about how something works or is done ▪ the *mechanics* of running ▪ He still has a lot to learn about the *mechanics* of running a business.

mech·a·nism /ˈmɛkəˌnɪzəm/ *noun, pl* **-nisms** [*count*]
1 : a piece of machinery **:** a mechanical part or group of parts having a particular function ▪ The camera's shutter *mechanism* is broken. ▪ a timing/locking *mechanism*
2 : a process or system that is used to produce a particular result ▪ Scientists are studying the body's *mechanisms* for controlling weight. ▪ There is no *mechanism* in place for enforcing the new law. ▪ a legal *mechanism* to prevent lobbyists from exerting unfair influence
3 : a way of acting, thinking, or behaving that helps or protects a person in a specified way ▪ a coping/survival *mechanism* ▪ psychological *mechanisms* for dealing with a tragic loss — see also DEFENSE MECHANISM, ESCAPE MECHANISM

mech·a·nize *also Brit* **mech·a·nise** /ˈmɛkəˌnaɪz/ *verb* **-niz·es; -nized; -niz·ing** [+ *obj*] **:** to change (a process or an activity) so that it is done with machines instead of by people or animals ▪ an invention that helped to *mechanize* agriculture
– **mech·a·ni·za·tion** *also Brit* **mech·a·ni·sa·tion** /ˌmɛkənəˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌmɛkəˌnaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *mechanization* of the industry – **mechanized** *also Brit* **mechanised** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ a highly *mechanized* industry

[1]med /ˈmɛd/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US, informal* **:** [1]MEDICAL ▪ *med* school ▪ *med* students

[2]med *noun, pl* **meds** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* **:** MEDICATION 1 — usually plural ▪ He stopped taking his *meds*.

[3]med *abbr* medium

Med *abbr* Mediterranean

MEd *abbr* master of education

[1]med·al /ˈmɛdl/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] **:** a piece of metal often in the form of a coin with designs and words in honor of a special event, a person, or an achievement ▪ He was awarded a *medal* for his heroism. — see also BRONZE MEDAL, GOLD MEDAL, MEDAL OF HONOR, SILVER MEDAL



medal

[2]medal *verb* **-als**; *US* **-aled** *or chiefly Brit* **-alled**; *US* **-al·ing** *or chiefly Brit* **-al·ling** [*no obj*] **:** to win a medal ▪ She *medaled* in figure skating in the Olympics.

med·al·ist (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **med·al·list** /ˈmɛdlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] **:** a person who receives or wins a medal ▪ an Olympic *medalist*

me·dal·lion /məˈdæljən/ *noun, pl* **-lions** [*count*]
1 : a large medal
2 : a decoration that is shaped like a large medal
3 : a small, round piece of food (such as meat) ▪ *medallions* of veal

Medal of Honor *noun, pl* **Medals of Honor** [*count*] **:** the highest U.S. military award that is given to someone for extreme bravery while in battle with an enemy

med·dle /ˈmɛdl/ *verb* **med·dles; med·dled; med·dling** [*no obj*]
1 : to become involved in the activities and concerns of other people when your involvement is not wanted **:** INTERFERE — usually + *in* ▪ He was always *meddling in* other people's personal lives. — sometimes + *with* ▪ They are *meddling with* things that don't concern them.
2 : to change or handle something in a way that is unwanted or harmful — + *with* ▪ Don't *meddle* with my stuff.
– **med·dler** /ˈmɛdlɚ/ *noun, pl* **med·dlers** [*count*] ▪ She thought she was being helpful, but her neighbors saw her as a *meddler*. – **meddling** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He was annoyed by his neighbor's *meddling*. – **meddling** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *meddling* neighbors

med·dle·some /ˈmɛdlsəm/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] **:** interfering with the activities and concerns of other people in an unwanted or unwelcome way **:** inclined to meddle ▪ Her neighbors saw her as a *meddlesome* nuisance.

med·e·vac *also* **med·i·vac** /ˈmɛdəˌvæk/ *noun, pl* **-vacs** *US*
1 [*noncount*] **:** emergency removal of sick or injured people from an area especially by helicopter — usually used before another noun ▪ a *medevac* mission/team
2 [*count*] **:** a helicopter used to remove sick or injured people from an area ▪ The wounded soldiers were evacuated by *medevac* to the hospital. ▪ an Army *medevac*
– **medevac** *also* **medivac** *verb* **-vacs; -vaced** *or* **-vacked; -vac·ing** *or* **-vack·ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ The wounded soldiers were *medevaced* to the hospital.

[1]media *plural of* [1]MEDIUM

[2]me·dia /ˈmi:dijə/ *noun* [*plural*]
1 : the radio stations, television stations, and newspapers through which information is communicated to the public **:** MASS MEDIA ▪ The event attracted a lot of attention from the *media*. = The event attracted a lot of *media* attention. ▪ the news *media* — sometimes used with a singular verb ▪ He feels that the *media* is ignoring this important issue.
2 *chiefly US* **:** people who work as news reporters, publishers, and broadcasters **:** members of the media ▪ The event attracted a lot of *media*. ▪ a large crowd of *media*

mediaeval *variant spelling of* MEDIEVAL

media event *noun, pl* **~ events** [*count*] **:** an event that attracts attention from the news media ▪ The President's visit to the school was a major *media event*.

[1]me·di·an /ˈmi:dijən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*]
1 *mathematics* **:** the middle value in a series of values arranged from smallest to largest

2 *US* : MEDIAN STRIP

²median *adj, always used before a noun* : in the middle; *especially, mathematics* : having a value that is in the middle of a series of values arranged from smallest to largest ▪ What is the *median* price of homes in this area?

median strip *noun, pl* ~ **strips** [*count*] *US* : a grassy or paved area that divides a highway so that traffic going in one direction is kept separate from traffic going in the opposite direction — called also (*US*) *median*, (*Brit*) *central reservation*

me•di•ate /'mi:di,eɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing**

1 a : to work with opposing sides in an argument or dispute in order to get an agreement [*no obj*] He has been appointed by the government to *mediate* (in the dispute) between the company and the striking workers. [+ *obj*] (*US*) ▪ He has been appointed to *mediate* the dispute. **b** [+ *obj*] : to get (something, such as a settlement or agreement) by working with opposing sides in a dispute ▪ He is attempting to *mediate* a settlement between the company and the striking workers. ▪ Negotiators are trying to *mediate* a cease-fire.

2 [+ *obj*] *formal* + *technical* : to have an effect or influence in causing (something) to happen — usually used as *(be) mediated* ▪ The study indicates that human aggression *is* partly *mediated* by biological factors.

– **me•di•a•tion** /,mi:di'eɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *mediation* of the dispute – **me•di•a•tor** /'mi:di,eɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ She has been appointed to act as a *mediator* [=*intermediary*] in the dispute.

med•ic /'mɛdɪk/ *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] : a person who does medical work: such as **a** *US* : a member of the military whose job is to provide emergency medical care to soldiers who have been wounded in battle **b** *Brit, informal* : a medical student or doctor

Med•ic•aid /'mɛdɪ,keɪd/ *noun* [*singular*] *US* : a government program that provides money to people who are unable to pay for regular medical care ▪ patients who are eligible for *Medicaid* — compare MEDICARE

¹med•i•cal /'mɛdɪkəl/ *adj* : of or relating to the treatment of diseases and injuries : of or relating to medicine ▪ *medical* care/advice/attention ▪ high *medical* bills ▪ *medical* problems/procedures ▪ the *medical* profession ▪ a *medical* breakthrough ▪ *medical* school/students ▪ He has a dangerous *medical* condition. ▪ The report was published in a leading *medical* journal. ▪ Her recovery was a *medical* miracle. ▪ He opened his own *medical* practice. ▪ an important advance in *medical* science ▪ a ***medical center*** [=a place where people go for medical treatment]

– **med•i•cal•ly** /'mɛdɪkli/ *adv* ▪ a *medically* necessary operation ▪ a *medically* useful drug

²medical *noun, pl* **-cals** [*count*] *Brit* : a medical examination : PHYSICAL

medical examiner *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *US* : a public official who examines the bodies of dead people to find the cause of death

medical practitioner *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *formal* : ¹DOCTOR

Medi•care /'mɛdɪ,keɚ/ *noun* [*singular*] *US* : a government program that provides medical care especially for old people ▪ patients eligible for *Medicare* — compare MEDICAID

med•i•cate /'mɛdɪ,keɪt/ *verb* **-cates**; **-cat•ed**; **-cat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to treat (a person or disease) with medicine and especially with drugs ▪ *medicate* an illness ▪ The patient had been heavily *medicated*.

med•i•cat•ed *adj* : containing a substance that kills germs and helps to keep your skin or hair healthy ▪ *medicated* soap/shampoo ▪ *medicated* foot powder

med•i•ca•tion /,mɛdɪ'keɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 : a substance used in treating disease or relieving pain : MEDICINE [*noncount*] She's taking *medication* for high blood pressure. = She's on *medication* for high blood pressure. [*count*] The company has developed a new allergy *medication*. ▪ He stopped taking his *medications*.

2 [*noncount*] : the act or process of treating a person or disease with medicine ▪ His condition requires *medication*. ▪ Her illness has not responded to *medication*.

me•dic•i•nal /mə'dɪsnəl/ *adj* : used to prevent or cure disease or to relieve pain ▪ a *medicinal* substance ▪ *medicinal* herbs/plants ▪ *medicinal* properties ▪ This drug is to be used only for *medicinal* purposes.

– **me•dic•i•nal•ly** *adv* ▪ a *medicinally* useful substance ▪ The plant was once used *medicinally*.

med•i•cine /'mɛdəsən, *Brit* 'mɛdsən/ *noun, pl* **-cines**

1 : a substance that is used in treating disease or relieving pain and that is usually in the form of a pill or a liquid [*count*] a cough *medicine* ▪ herbal *medicines* ▪ He forgot to take his *medicine*. [*noncount*] I took some *medicine*. ▪ Did you look in the *medicine* cabinet/chest for a pain reliever?

2 [*noncount*] : the science that deals with preventing, curing, and treating diseases ▪ Their research has led to many important advances in modern *medicine*. ▪ She's interested in a career in *medicine*. ▪ the practice/study of *medicine* ▪ preventive *medicine* — see also INTERNAL MEDICINE, SOCIALIZED MEDICINE, SPORTS MEDICINE, WESTERN MEDICINE

a taste/dose of your own medicine *informal* : harsh or unpleasant treatment that is like the treatment you have given other people ▪ The movie is about a playboy who gets *a taste of his own medicine* when the girl he falls in love with jilts him for another guy.

take your medicine *informal* : to accept something that is unpleasant because it is necessary and cannot be avoided ▪ If he loses the case, he should just *take his medicine* and stop complaining.

medicine ball *noun, pl* ~ **balls** [*count*] : a heavy leather-covered ball that is used for exercises

medicine dropper *noun, pl* ~ **-pers** [*count*] : DROPPER

medicine man *noun, pl* ~ **men** [*count*] : a person in Native American cultures who is believed to have magic powers that can cure illnesses and keep away evil spirits

med•i•co /'mɛdɪ,koʊ/ *noun, pl* **-cos** [*count*] *informal* : ¹DOCTOR ▪ She proved the *medicos* wrong by recovering quickly from her injuries.

med•i•co•le•gal /,mɛdɪkoʊ'li:gəl/ *adj* : of or relating to both medicine and law ▪ *medicolegal* problems

me•di•eval *also* **me•di•ae•val** /,mi:di'i:vəl, *Brit* ,mɛdi'i:vəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : of or relating to the Middle Ages : of or relating to the period of European history from about A.D. 500 to about 1500 ▪ *medieval* music/history/warriors

2 *informal* : very old : too old to be useful or acceptable ▪ They're using a computer system that seems positively *medieval* by today's standards.

me•di•o•cre /,mi:di'oʊkɚ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not very good ▪ The dinner was delicious, but the dessert was *mediocre*. ▪ The carpenter did a *mediocre* job. ▪ a *mediocre* wine ▪ The critics dismissed him as a *mediocre* actor.

me•di•oc•ri•ty /,mi:di'ɑ:krəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*noncount*] : the quality of something that is not very good : the quality or state of being mediocre ▪ We were disappointed by the *mediocrity* of the wine.

2 [*count*] : a person who does not have the special ability to do something well ▪ He thought that he was a brilliant artist himself and that all his fellow painters were just *mediocrities*.

med•i•tate /'mɛdə,teɪt/ *verb* **-tates**; **-tat•ed**; **-tat•ing** [*no obj*] : to spend time in quiet thought for religious purposes or relaxation ▪ He *meditates* for an hour every morning.

meditate on/upon [*phrasal verb*] ***meditate on/upon (something)*** : to think about (something) carefully ▪ She *meditated on* whether or not to return to school. ▪ He was *meditating upon* the meaning of life.

med•i•ta•tion /,mɛdə'teɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 : the act or process of spending time in quiet thought : the act or process of meditating [*noncount*] She spent the morning in *meditation*. ▪ Daily *meditation* helps clear his mind. [*count*] his daily *meditations*

2 [*count*] *formal* : an expression of a person's thoughts on something — often + *on* or *upon* ▪ The essay is a *meditation on* modern life. — often plural ▪ She recently published her *meditations on* ethics.

med•i•ta•tive /'mɛdə,teɪtɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very thoughtful ▪ a *meditative* student ▪ I could see that she was in a *meditative* mood. : involving or allowing deep thought or meditation ▪ *meditative* music

– **med•i•ta•tive•ly** *adv* ▪ She gazed *meditatively* at him.

Med•i•ter•ra•nean /,mɛdətə'reɪnijən/ *adj* : of or relating to the Mediterranean Sea or to the lands that surround it ▪ a *Mediterranean* island/climate ▪ *Mediterranean* cuisine

¹me•di•um /'mi:dijəm/ *noun, pl* **me•di•ums** *or* **me•dia** /'mi:dijə/ [*count*]

1 *pl* ***mediums*** : something that is sold in a medium size : something that is the middle size when compared with things that are larger and smaller ▪ I take a *medium*. ▪ These shirts are all *mediums* and I take a large. ▪ Make my French fries a *medium*.

2 *pl usually* ***media*** : a particular form or system of commu-

nication (such as newspapers, radio, or television) ▪ an effective advertising *medium* = an effective *medium* for advertising — see also MEDIA

3 : the materials or methods used by an artist ▪ Her preferred *medium* is sculpture. ▪ The artist works in two *media/mediums*, pencil and watercolor.

4 : the thing by which or through which something is done ▪ Money is a *medium* [=*means*] of exchange. ▪ English is an important *medium* of international communication.

5 *pl* ***mediums*** : a person who claims to be able to communicate with the spirits of dead people ▪ She visited a *medium* to try to talk to her dead son.

6 *formal* : a surrounding condition or environment ▪ Ocean fish live in a *medium* of salt water.

happy medium : a good choice or condition that avoids any extremes ▪ They are looking for a *happy medium*: a house that is not too big but that has lots of storage space. ▪ The car's designers have found/struck a *happy medium* between affordability and luxury.

[2]medium *adj*

1 : in the middle of a range of possible sizes, amounts, etc. ▪ These T-shirts are available in three sizes: small, *medium*, and large. ▪ a person of *medium* build/height/weight ▪ a *medium* blue [=a blue that is neither very light nor very dark]

2 *of meat* : cooked to a point that is between rare and well-done ▪ How would you like your steak, sir: rare, *medium*, or well-done? ✧ Meat that is ***medium rare*** is cooked to a point between rare and medium, while meat that is ***medium well*** is cooked to a point between medium and well-done.

– **medium** *adv* ▪ He likes his steak cooked *medium*.

medium–sized *or* **medium–size** *adj* : neither large nor small ▪ a *medium-sized* pan ▪ a *medium-size* car/house/city

medium–term *adj, always used before a noun* : lasting for a period of time that is neither long nor short ▪ Our short-term prospects are grim and our *medium-term* prospects are uncertain, but our long-term prospects are good.

medivac *variant spelling of* MEDEVAC

med•ley /'mɛdli/ *noun, pl* **-leys** [*count*]

1 : a musical piece made up of parts of other musical works ▪ a *medley* of show tunes

2 : a mixture of different people or things ▪ a *medley* of sights/sounds/aromas

3 *sports* : a race in swimming in which swimmers use a different stroke for each different part of the race ▪ the 400-meter *medley*

meek /'mi:k/ *adj* **meek•er**; **-est** : having or showing a quiet and gentle nature : not wanting to fight or argue with other people ▪ a *meek* child dominated by his brothers ▪ a *meek* reply ▪ She may seem ***meek and mild*** but it is all an act.

– **meek•ly** *adv* ▪ He asked *meekly* for help. – **meek•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]meet /'mi:t/ *verb* **meets**; **met** /'mɛt/; **meet•ing**

1 : to see and speak to (someone) for the first time : to be introduced to or become acquainted with (someone) [+ *obj*] He *met* his wife at work. ▪ We *met* each other in college. ▪ Did you *meet* anyone interesting at the party? ▪ I'd like you to *meet* my good friend Bob. ▪ I'm happy/glad/pleased to *meet* you. = (*informally*) Pleased to *meet* you. ▪ It was nice *meeting* you. = It was a pleasure *meeting* you. = I'm happy/glad to have *met* you. [*no obj*] The couple *met* at a dance. ▪ We *met* in college. ▪ Have we *met*? You look familiar. ▪ Actually, we've already *met*.

2 a : to come together in order to talk : to go to a place to be with someone else [*no obj*] They *met* for drinks after work. ▪ We arranged to *meet* for lunch. ▪ Let's *meet* at the park. ▪ They *meet* together every week. ▪ We are *meeting* downtown tomorrow. [+ *obj*] I arranged to *meet* her for lunch. ▪ She said she'd *meet* me in/at the park. ▪ I'm being *met* by a friend at the airport. ▪ I'm planning to *meet* his plane at the airport. [=to be at the airport waiting for him when his plane arrives]

b [*no obj*] : to come together formally : to have a meeting ▪ The club *meets* every Wednesday night. : to come together for a discussion ▪ We are *meeting* today to discuss the plans.

3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to see (someone) by chance ▪ I *met* [=*ran into*] an old friend at the store. ▪ I hope we'll *meet* again someday.

b : to come near (someone or something) as you are passing by ▪ We only *met* one other car on the road.

4 : to face each other in a game, competition, war, etc. [*no obj*] The teams *met* in the finals last year. ▪ The candidates will *meet* for two debates. ▪ Two great armies *met* on the battlefield that day. [+ *obj*] The Boston Red Sox will *meet* the New York Yankees in a three-game series this weekend. ▪ The army was advancing to *meet* the enemy.

5 : to touch and join with or cross something else [+ *obj*] the point where the river *meets* the sea [*no obj*] the point where the river and the sea *meet* ▪ His jacket does not *meet* in front. [=the two sides of his jacket do not touch in the front; his jacket is too small]

6 [+ *obj*] **a** : to be equal to (something) : to match (something) ▪ The store promises to *meet* the price of any competitor. **b** : to succeed in doing or providing (something) ▪ They *met* all our demands. [=they did everything that we demanded] ▪ The restaurant didn't *meet* (our) expectations. [=it was not as good as we expected it to be] ▪ They haven't yet *met* the requirements for entry. [=they have not done what they must do for entry] **c** : to reach (something, such as a goal) ▪ They failed to *meet* their target/goals. ▪ The students here are expected to *meet* very high standards. : to succeed in doing what is required by (something) ▪ They *met* the challenge. ▪ We somehow managed to *meet* the deadline. ▪ The new policies are intended to help *meet* the growing demand for new housing. ▪ The company was unable to *meet* its payroll. [=the company was unable to pay its employees when it was supposed to] ▪ We have enough money to *meet* our needs. [=to pay for the things that we need] ▪ We work very hard to *meet* the needs of our customers. [=to provide our customers with what they need]

7 [+ *obj*] **a** : to experience or be affected by (something bad or unpleasant) ▪ They *met* defeat bravely. ▪ They *met* trouble on the way home. ▪ The proposal has *met* [=*encountered*] some opposition. [=there has been some opposition to the proposal] ▪ This is the place where he *met* his death. [=where he was killed; where he died] ▪ I hope they don't ***meet the fate*** of so many others in their situation. [=I hope the things that happen to others in their situation do not happen to them] **b** : to deal with or face (something) directly ▪ She *met* his glance/gaze without looking away. [=she looked directly at him as he looked at her] ✧ When two people's ***eyes meet*** they look directly at each other. ▪ Their *eyes met*. = His *eyes met* hers. = He *met her eyes*.

8 [+ *obj*] : to be sensed by (the eyes, ears, etc.) ▪ We were shocked by the sight that *met* our eyes/gaze/view. [=we were shocked by what we saw] ▪ A distant murmur *met* his ear/ears. [=he heard a distant murmur] ▪ When they opened the door they were *met* by/with a shocking sight. [=they saw something shocking]

make ends meet see [1]END

meet (someone) halfway : to reach an agreement with (someone) by giving up something that you want : to compromise with (someone) ▪ We can't comply with all your requests, but we can *meet you halfway*. ▪ Can we at least *meet halfway* on this?

meet up with [*phrasal verb*] ***meet up with (someone)*** *informal* : to come together with (someone) : to go to a place to be with (someone) ▪ I'll *meet up with* you later. [=I'll meet you later] ▪ They *met up with* each other for drinks.

meet with [*phrasal verb*] **1 *meet with (someone)*** : to come together with (someone) to talk about something : to have a meeting with (someone) ▪ We are *meeting with* the architect today to discuss the plans. ▪ Can you *meet with* us later today? **2 *meet with (something)*** : to have or experience (something) ▪ The proposal has *met with* (some) opposition. ▪ We *met with* many adventures on our trip. ▪ He *met with* a warm reception [=he was warmly received/welcomed] when he arrived. ▪ When she didn't arrive on time, we were worried that she might have *met with* an accident. ▪ Her ideas *met with* their approval. [=they approved her ideas]

meet your maker see MAKER

more than meets the eye see [1]EYE

– **meet•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ He's one of the company's *meeters* and greeters. [=a person who meets new people and welcomes them to a place]

[2]meet *noun, pl* **meets** [*count*]

1 *chiefly US* : a large gathering of athletes for a sports competition ▪ a track/swim *meet* — called also (*Brit*) ***meeting***; see also SWAP MEET

2 *Brit* : an event or occasion when people come together to hunt foxes

meet•ing /'mi:tɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 a [*count*] : a gathering of people for a particular purpose (such as to talk about business) ▪ The club's monthly *meeting* will be held next Monday evening. ▪ She was too busy to attend the *meeting*. ▪ Let's have/hold/call/convene a *meeting* to discuss these problems. ▪ postpone/adjourn/close a business *meeting* ▪ a committee/staff *meeting* ▪ I wasn't able to talk to

him because he was ***in a meeting***. **b :** a gathering of people for religious worship [*count*] a Quaker *meeting* ▪ a revival *meeting* ▪ a prayer *meeting* [*noncount*] (*US*) He attends Quaker *meeting*.

2 [*count*] **a :** a situation or occasion when two people see and talk to each other ▪ They started dating each other soon after their first *meeting*. ▪ Their friendship began with a chance *meeting* at a business convention. **b :** a situation or occasion when athletes or teams compete against each other ▪ Tonight's game will be their first *meeting* of the season. **c** *Brit* : ²MEET 1 ▪ an athletics *meeting*

3 [*singular*] : the place where two things come together ▪ a town at the *meeting* of two rivers

a meeting of minds *or US* ***a meeting of the minds*** : an understanding or agreement between two people or groups ▪ The company and the union tried to come to *a meeting of the minds*. [=they tried to reach an agreement]

meet·ing·house /ˈmiːtɪŋˌhaʊs/ *noun, pl* **-hous·es** [*count*] : a building used for public gatherings and especially for Christian worship in the past

mega /ˈmɛgə/ *adj, informal*

1 : very large : VAST ▪ a *mega* electronics store

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : very popular, successful, or important ▪ an actor who has become a *mega* celebrity

mega- /mɛgə/ *combining form*

1 a : great : large ▪ a *mega*store **b** *informal* : extremely ▪ *mega*-rich

2 *technical* : million : multiplied by one million ▪ *mega*hertz ▪ *mega*byte

mega·bit /ˈmɛgəˌbɪt/ *noun, pl* **-bits** [*count*] *computers* : one million bits — abbr. *Mb*

mega·bucks /ˈmɛgəˌbʌks/ *noun* [*plural*] *informal* : an extremely large amount of money ▪ a star athlete who is earning *megabucks*

– **mega·buck** /ˈmɛgəˌbʌk/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *megabuck* movie [=a movie that cost a great amount of money to produce] ▪ an athlete with a *megabuck* contract

mega·byte /ˈmɛgəˌbaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-bytes** [*count*] *computers* : a unit of computer information equal to 1,048,576 bytes ▪ The CD has a storage capacity of 800 *megabytes*. — abbr. *MB*; compare GIGABYTE, KILOBYTE

mega·cor·po·ra·tion /ˌmɛgəˌkoəpəˈreɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] : an extremely large and powerful corporation

mega·dose /ˈmɛgəˌdoʊs/ *noun, pl* **-dos·es** [*count*] *US* : a large amount of medicine, vitamins, etc. : a large dose ▪ He took *megadoses* of vitamin C.

mega·hertz /ˈmɛgəˌhəts/ *noun, pl* **-hertz** [*count*] *technical* : a unit of radio frequency equal to one million hertz — abbr. *MHz*

mega·hit /ˈmɛgəˌhɪt/ *noun, pl* **-hits** [*count*] *informal* : something (such as a movie) that is extremely successful ▪ His latest movie was a *megahit*.

mega·lith /ˈmɛgəˌlɪθ/ *noun, pl* **-liths** [*count*] : a very large stone used in ancient cultures as a monument or part of a building

– **mega·lith·ic** /ˌmɛgəˈlɪθɪk/ *adj* ▪ a *megalithic* tower/tomb/monument

meg·a·lo·ma·nia /ˌmɛgəloʊˈmeɪnijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a condition or mental illness that causes people to think that they have great or unlimited power or importance ▪ Their CEO has an arrogance that borders on *megalomania*.

meg·a·lo·ma·ni·ac /ˌmɛgəloʊˈmeɪniˌæk/ *noun, pl* **-acs** [*count*] : a person who believes that he or she has unlimited power or importance : a person who has megalomania ▪ Their CEO is a real *megalomaniac*.

– **megalomaniac** *adj* ▪ a *megalomaniac* artist – **meg·a·lo·ma·ni·a·cal** /ˌmɛgəloʊməˈnajəkəl/ *adj* ▪ *megalomaniacal* delusions ▪ a *megalomaniacal* politician

meg·a·lop·o·lis /ˌmɛgəˈlɑːpələs/ *noun, pl* **-lis·es** [*count*] *US*

1 : a very large city

2 : an area that includes a large city or several large cities

mega·phone /ˈmɛgəˌfoʊn/ *noun, pl* **-phones** [*count*] : a cone-shaped device used to make your voice louder when you speak through it — compare BULLHORN

mega·plex /ˈmɛgəˌplɛks/ *noun, pl* **-plexes** [*count*] *US* : a large building that contains many movie theaters — compare MULTIPLEX

mega·star /ˈmɛgəˌstɑə/ *noun, pl* **-stars** [*count*] *informal* : a very famous and successful performer (such as an actor or an athlete)

mega·store /ˈmɛgəˌstoə/ *noun, pl* **-stores** [*count*] : a very large store that sells many different products ▪ a discount *megastore* [=*superstore*]

mega·ton /ˈmɛgəˌtʌn/ *noun, pl* **-tons** [*count*] : an explosive force that is equal to one million tons of TNT ▪ an atomic explosion with a force of several *megatons*

mega·watt /ˈmɛgəˌwɑːt/ *noun, pl* **-watts** [*count*] : a unit of electrical power equal to one million watts ▪ 50 *megawatts* of electricity — compare KILOWATT

mein see CHOW MEIN, LO MEIN

meis·ter /ˈmaɪstə/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] *informal* : someone who knows a lot about something : someone who is an expert in something — usually used in combination ▪ a champion puzzle-*meister* ▪ a rap-*meister*

mel·a·mine /ˈmɛləˌmiːn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of hard plastic that is used especially for covering other materials

mel·an·cho·lia /ˌmɛlənˈkoʊlijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *old-fashioned + literary* : a feeling of sadness and depression

mel·an·chol·ic /ˌmɛlənˈkɑːlɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *old-fashioned + literary* : very sad : GLOOMY ▪ a *melancholic* outlook ▪ *melancholic* music

¹mel·an·choly /ˈmɛlənˌkɑːli/ *noun* [*noncount*] *old-fashioned + literary* : a sad mood or feeling ▪ suffering from *melancholy* ▪ a time of *melancholy*

²melancholy *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : feeling or showing sadness : very unhappy ▪ She was in a *melancholy* mood. ▪ He became quiet and *melancholy* as the hours slowly passed. ▪ *melancholy* [=*sad, depressing*] music/thoughts

mé·lange /meɪˈlɑːnʒ/ *noun, pl* **-lang·es** [*count*] : a mixture of different things ▪ a *mélange* of colors and shapes ▪ a *mélange* of architectural styles

mel·a·nin /ˈmɛlənən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a dark brown or black substance that is a natural part of people's skin, hair, and eyes

mel·a·no·ma /ˌmɛləˈnoʊmə/ *noun, pl* **-mas** *also* **-ma·ta** /-mətə/ *medical* : a type of cancer or tumor that begins as a dark spot or area on the skin [*noncount*] She has *melanoma*. [*count*] a malignant *melanoma*

¹meld /ˈmɛld/ *verb* **melds; meld·ed; meld·ing :** to blend or mix together [*no obj*] Cook the sauce slowly to let the flavors *meld* (together). [+ *obj*] Cook the sauce slowly to *meld* the flavors (together).

²meld *noun* [*singular*] *chiefly US* : a mixture of things ▪ a *meld* [=*blend*] of musical influences ▪ a *meld* of Jewish and Christian customs

me·lee /ˈmeɪˌleɪ, *Brit* ˈmɛˌleɪ/ *noun, pl* **-lees** [*count*] : a confused struggle or fight involving many people — usually singular ▪ They were seriously injured in the *melee*.

mel·lif·lu·ous /mɛˈlɪfləwəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : having a smooth, flowing sound ▪ *mellifluous* speech ▪ a *mellifluous* voice

– **mel·lif·lu·ous·ly** *adv* ▪ She sang *mellifluously*.

¹mel·low /ˈmɛloʊ/ *adj* **mel·low·er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*]

1 : pleasantly rich, full, or soft : not harsh, bright, or irritating ▪ The painting captures the *mellow* light of a summer evening. ▪ *mellow* music ▪ a *mellow* golden color

2 : having a pleasing rich flavor that develops over time ▪ This wine is very *mellow*. ▪ a *mellow* cheese

3 a : very calm and relaxed ▪ He was in a *mellow* mood. ▪ She was a tough and demanding teacher, but she became *mellower* in her old age. ▪ He's a very *mellow* guy. ▪ a *mellow* crowd **b** *informal* : relaxed from drinking alcohol or using drugs ▪ After a couple of drinks we all started feeling pretty *mellow*.

²mellow *verb* **-lows; -lowed; -low·ing :** to become or to cause (someone or something) to become less harsh, irritating, nervous, etc. [*no obj*] She was a tough and demanding teacher, but she has *mellowed* in her old age. ▪ The wine needs time to *mellow*. [+ *obj*] She was a tough and demanding teacher, but old age has *mellowed* her. ▪ Time *mellowed* [=*softened*] their hard feelings.

mellow out [*phrasal verb*] *US, informal* : to become relaxed and calm ▪ She *mellowed out* as she grew older. : to calm down ▪ You're getting all upset over nothing. You need to *mellow out*.

– **mel·low·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

me·lod·ic /məˈlɑːdɪk/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to melody ▪ the *melodic* flow of the music ▪ a pleasing *melodic* line/pattern

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : having a pleasant musical sound or

melody ▪ a *melodic* tune ▪ a *melodic* voice
– **me·lod·i·cal·ly** /məˈlɑːdɪkli/ *adv* ▪ The birds were singing *melodically*.

me·lo·di·ous /məˈloʊdijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a pleasing melody ▪ a *melodious* song : having or making a pleasant musical sound ▪ a *melodious* sound/voice ▪ *melodious* birds/instruments
– **me·lo·di·ous·ly** *adv* ▪ singing *melodiously* – **me·lo·di·ous·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

melo·dra·ma /ˈmɛləˌdrɑːmə/ *noun, pl* **-mas**
1 : drama in which many exciting events happen and the characters have very strong or exaggerated emotions [*noncount*] Critics dismissed his work as *melodrama*. ▪ an actor with a talent for *melodrama* [*count*] She is starring in another *melodrama*.
2 : a situation or series of events in which people have very strong or exaggerated emotions [*count*] The trial turned into a *melodrama*. [*noncount*] a life full of *melodrama*

melo·dra·mat·ic /ˌmɛlədrəˈmætɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *often disapproving* : emotional in a way that is very extreme or exaggerated : extremely dramatic or emotional ▪ a *melodramatic* movie/story/script ▪ Oh, quit being so *melodramatic*! ▪ *melodramatic* music
– **melo·dra·mat·i·cal·ly** /ˌmɛlədrəˈmætɪkli/ *adv* ▪ She threw herself onto the bed *melodramatically* and sobbed.

melo·dra·mat·ics /ˌmɛlədrəˈmætɪks/ *noun* [*plural*] : extremely dramatic or emotional behavior : melodramatic behavior ▪ He told the story without any *melodramatics*.

mel·o·dy /ˈmɛlədi/ *noun, pl* **-dies**
1 : a pleasing series of musical notes that form the main part of a song or piece of music [*count*] He wrote a piece that includes some beautiful/haunting *melodies*. [*noncount*] a composer known for his love of *melody*
2 [*count*] : a song or tune ▪ He sang a few old-fashioned *melodies*.

mel·on /ˈmɛlən/ *noun, pl* **-ons** [*count, noncount*] : a large, round fruit that has a hard skin and sweet, juicy flesh — see also HONEYDEW MELON, WATERMELON

[1]melt /ˈmɛlt/ *verb* **melts; melt·ed; melt·ing**
1 : to change or to cause (something) to change from a solid to a liquid usually because of heat [*no obj*] The butter *melted* in the frying pan. ▪ The snow is finally *melting*. [+ *obj*] She *melted* butter in the frying pan. ▪ a tablespoon of *melted* butter ▪ *melted* cheese
2 [*no obj*] : to gradually become less or go away : DISAPPEAR ▪ Their determination *melted* in the face of opposition. — often + *away* ▪ Her anger *melted away* when she saw that he was truly sorry. ▪ As the sun rose the fog began to *melt away*.
3 : to begin to have feelings of love, kindness, sympathy, etc. [*no obj*] She *melted* at his kindly words. ▪ Her heart *melted* with compassion. [+ *obj*] It would have ***melted your heart*** [=it would have filled you with compassion, sympathy, etc.] to see her lying in that hospital bed.
butter wouldn't melt in someone's mouth see [1]BUTTER
melt down [*phrasal verb*] **1 a** *of a nuclear reactor* : to heat up accidentally, melt, and release radiation ▪ The reactor's core *melted down*. **b** : to experience a very fast collapse or failure ▪ The stock market has *melted down*. — see also MELTDOWN **2** ***melt (something) down or melt down (something)*** : to melt (something) so that it can be used for another purpose ▪ *melt down* a coin ▪ The stolen gold has probably already been *melted down*.
melt into [*phrasal verb*] ***melt into (something)*** : to become difficult or impossible to see by changing into or becoming combined with (something else) ▪ The colors in the painting *melt into* one another. ▪ Her frown *melted into* a smile. ▪ She *melted into* [=disappeared into] the crowd. ▪ He seemed to *melt into* thin air. [=he seemed to disappear]
melt in your mouth ✧ Food that *melts in your mouth* is delicious and feels soft or becomes soft when you put it in your mouth. ▪ chocolate candies that *melt in your mouth* ▪ The fish practically *melts in your mouth*.

[2]melt *noun, pl* **melts** [*count*] *US* : a sandwich made with melted cheese ▪ a tuna *melt*

melt·down /ˈmɛltˌdaʊn/ *noun, pl* **-downs**
1 : an accident in which the core of a nuclear reactor melts and releases radiation [*count*] a nuclear *meltdown* [*noncount*] fears that an accident could cause *meltdown*
2 a : a very fast collapse or failure [*count*] a stock market *meltdown* [*noncount*] a company experiencing financial *meltdown* **b** [*count*] *chiefly US, somewhat informal* : a very fast loss of emotional self-control ▪ After a long day at the beach, our toddler had a major *meltdown* in the car on the way home. — see also *melt down* at [1]MELT

melt·ing /ˈmɛltɪŋ/ *adj* : having a quality that causes gentle feelings of love, sympathy, etc. ▪ a love song's *melting* lyrics ▪ She looked at him with *melting* eyes.
– **melt·ing·ly** *adv*

melting point *noun, pl* ~ **points** [*count, noncount*] : the temperature at which something melts ▪ a metal's *melting point*

melting pot *noun, pl* ~ **pots** [*count*] : a place (such as a city or country) where different types of people live together and gradually create one community — usually singular ▪ The city is a *melting pot* of different cultures. ▪ the American *melting pot*
in the melting pot *Brit* : not yet certain or finally decided : still changing or likely to change ▪ Our plans are still *in the melting pot*. ▪ It looked like our team was winning, but then everything went back *in the melting pot*. [=the outcome became uncertain again]

mem·ber /ˈmɛmbɚ/ *noun, pl* **-bers** [*count*]
1 : someone or something that belongs to or is a part of a group or an organization ▪ a club/committee/team *member* ▪ family *members* ▪ The club has 300 *members*. ▪ She is a *member* of the House of Representatives. ▪ She is a *member/Member* of Parliament. ▪ a *member* of the audience ▪ band/crew/gang *members* ▪ This bird is a *member* of the finch family. ▪ countries that are *members* of the United Nations — see also CHARTER MEMBER, FOUNDING MEMBER
2 *technical* : a part of a structure (such as a building or a bridge) ▪ a horizontal *member* of a bridge ▪ the roof's supporting *members*
3 a *old-fashioned* : a body part (such as an arm or a leg) ▪ his lower *members* **b** — used as a polite way of saying *penis* ▪ the male *member*

mem·ber·ship /ˈmɛmbɚˌʃɪp/ *noun, pl* **-ships**
1 : the state of belonging to or being a part of a group or an organization : the state of being a member [*noncount*] (*US*) He applied for *membership* in the club. = (*Brit*) He applied for *membership* of the club. [*count*] What is the cost of a one-year *membership*? ▪ They renewed their *memberships*.
2 : all the people or things that belong to or are part of an organization or a group [*noncount*] *Membership* in the club doubled last year. ▪ clubs that are hoping to increase their *membership* [*count*] The club has a large *membership*. ▪ The *membership* has voted to accept the proposal. = (*Brit*) The *membership* have voted to accept the proposal. ▪ clubs that are hoping to increase their *memberships*

mem·brane /ˈmɛmˌbreɪn/ *noun, pl* **-branes** [*count*] : a thin sheet or layer ▪ The computer chip is covered by/with a plastic *membrane*. [=the computer chip is covered by/with a very thin sheet of plastic]; *especially* : a thin sheet or layer of tissue that is part of a plant or an animal's body ▪ a cell *membrane*
– **mem·bran·ous** /ˈmɛmbrənəs/ *adj, technical* ▪ *membranous* tissue

me·men·to /məˈmɛntoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-tos** *or* **-toes** [*count*] : something that is kept as a reminder of a person, place, or thing : SOUVENIR ▪ a collection of photographs and *mementos* ▪ It was a *memento* of our trip.

memo /ˈmɛmoʊ/ *noun, pl* **mem·os** [*count*] : a usually brief written message from one person or department in an organization, company, etc., to another : MEMORANDUM ▪ He sent a *memo* to the staff.

mem·oir /ˈmɛmˌwɑɚ/ *noun, pl* **-oirs**
1 ***memoirs*** [*plural*] : a written account in which someone (such as a famous performer or politician) describes past experiences ▪ a retired politician who is writing his *memoirs*
2 [*count*] : a written account of someone or something that is usually based on personal knowledge of the subject ▪ He has written a *memoir* of his mother. ▪ a *memoir* of Hollywood in the 1930s

mem·o·ra·bil·ia /ˌmɛmərəˈbɪlijə/ *noun* [*plural*] : objects or materials that are collected because they are related to a particular event, person, etc. : things collected as souvenirs ▪ a display of sports/military *memorabilia* ▪ She collects Beatles *memorabilia*.

mem·o·ra·ble /ˈmɛmərəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very good or interesting and worth remembering ▪ a *memorable* vacation/experience ▪ It was the most *memorable* line of the play. ▪ She gave a *memorable* performance.
– **mem·o·ra·bly** /ˈmɛmərəbli/ *adv* ▪ a *memorably* exciting event

mem•o•ran•dum /ˌmɛməˈrændəm/ *noun, pl* **-dums** *or* **-da** /-də/ [*count*]
1 : a usually brief written message or report from one person or department in a company or organization to another ▪ The company president sent a *memorandum* [=(less formally) *memo*] to each employee.
2 *law* : an informal written record of an agreement that has not yet become official

[1]me•mo•ri•al /məˈmorijəl/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] : something (such as a monument or ceremony) that honors a person who has died or serves as a reminder of an event in which many people died ▪ a war *memorial* — often + *to* ▪ The new hospital is a fitting *memorial to* her.

[2]memorial *adj, always used before a noun* : created or done to honor a person who has died or to remind people of an event in which many people died ▪ a *memorial* service/monument ▪ a *memorial* scholarship fund

Memorial Day *noun, pl* ~ **Days** [*count, noncount*] : the last Monday in May that is a national holiday in the U.S. honoring members of the armed forces who died in wars

me•mo•ri•al•ize *also Brit* **me•mo•ri•al•ise** /məˈmorijəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es**; **-ized**; **-iz•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to do or create something that causes people to remember (a person, thing, or event) ▪ an exciting period in history that has been *memorialized* in many popular books and movies

memoriam see IN MEMORIAM

mem•o•rize *also Brit* **mem•o•rise** /ˈmɛməˌraɪz/ *verb* **-riz•es**; **-rized**; **-riz•ing** [+ *obj*] : to learn (something) so well that you are able to remember it perfectly ▪ He *memorized* the speech. ▪ an actress *memorizing* her lines
– **mem•o•ri•za•tion** *also Brit* **mem•o•ri•sa•tion** /ˌmɛmərəˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌmɛməˌraɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

mem•o•ry /ˈmɛməri/ *noun, pl* **-ries**
1 : the power or process of remembering what has been learned [*count*] He began to lose his *memory* as he grew older. ▪ He has an excellent *memory* for faces. [=he is very good at remembering faces] ▪ Those people have ***long memories***. [=they remember things that happened long ago] ▪ She has a ***short memory***. [=she forgets things quickly] ▪ Dad has a ***selective memory***. he remembers the times he was right and forgets the times he was wrong. [*noncount*] They claim that these pills can improve (the) *memory*. ▪ short-term/long-term *memory* ▪ He committed the speech ***to memory***. [=he memorized the speech] ▪ ***If memory serves (me rightly/correctly)***, his name is John. [=if I remember accurately, his name is John] — see also PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY
2 a [*count*] : something that is remembered ▪ We have pleasant *memories* of the trip. ▪ trying to repress bitter/painful *memories* ▪ childhood *memories* ▪ His name evokes *memories* of a happier time. ▪ That time is just a dim/faint *memory* to me now. **b** [*noncount*] : the things learned and kept in the mind ▪ The happiness of those times is still vivid in my *memory*. ▪ Her name has faded from *memory*. ▪ I seem to have very little *memory* of that time in my life. ▪ Her name has faded from my *memory*. [=I cannot remember her name] ▪ That tragic day has become part of our collective *memory*. [=it is something that we all remember] ▪ He has no *memory* of what happened. [=he does not remember what happened] ▪ I can't remember exactly how much it costs. Could you ***refresh my memory***? [=remind me] ▪ The sudden shock ***jogged his memory*** and everything came flooding back into his mind.
3 [*count*] : the things that are remembered about a person who has died ▪ Even though he is no longer with us, ***his memory lives on***. [=we still remember him]
4 : the period of time that a person can remember [*count*] — usually singular ▪ These events occurred within their *memory*. [=occurred during the time that they can remember] [*noncount*] These events occurred within ***living memory***. ▪ The harbor froze over for the first time ***in (modern/recent) memory***.
5 [*noncount*] *computers* **a** : capacity for storing information ▪ a computer with 512MB of *memory* ▪ The computer needs **more** *memory*. **b** : the part of a computer in which information is stored ▪ information stored in *memory* — see also RANDOM-ACCESS MEMORY
from memory : without reading or looking at notes ▪ She delivered the speech (entirely) *from memory*. ▪ He played the entire piece *from memory*. ▪ She can recite *from memory* the capitals of all the states of the U.S.
in memory of *or* ***in someone's memory*** : made or done to honor someone who has died ▪ The monument is *in memory of* the soldiers who died in battle on this field. ▪ He donated the painting *in his wife's memory*.
memory lane ✧ If you ***take a stroll/trip/walk (etc.) down memory lane***, you think or talk about pleasant things from the past. ▪ We *took a stroll down memory lane*, talking about our time at school together.

men *plural of* [1]MAN

[1]men•ace /ˈmɛnəs/ *noun, pl* **-ac•es**
1 [*count*] **a** : a dangerous or possibly harmful person or thing — usually singular ▪ Those dogs are a *menace*. — often + *to* ▪ Those dogs are a *menace to* the neighborhood. ▪ a criminal who is a *menace to* society **b** : someone who causes trouble or annoyance — usually singular ▪ That kid is a *menace*.
2 [*noncount*] : a dangerous or threatening quality ▪ There was an atmosphere of *menace* in the city. ▪ She could hear the *menace* in his voice.
with menaces *Brit, law* : with threats : using threatening actions or language ▪ They were accused of demanding money *with menaces*.

[2]menace *verb* **-aces**; **-aced**; **-ac•ing** [+ *obj*] *somewhat formal* : to threaten harm to (someone or something) — often used as *(be) menaced* ▪ She *was menaced* by a man with a knife. ▪ a country *menaced* by war
– **menacing** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ He gave her a *menacing* look. – **men•ac•ing•ly** /ˈmɛnəsɪŋli/ *adv* ▪ He looked at her *menacingly*.

mé•nage à trois /meɪˈnɑːʒɑˈtrwɑː/ *noun, pl* **mé•nages à trois** /meɪˈnɑːʒɑˈtrwɑː/ [*count*] : an arrangement in which three people have sex with each other especially while living together

me•nag•er•ie /məˈnæʤəri/ *noun, pl* **-ies** [*count*] : a collection of animals kept especially to be shown to the public ▪ a *menagerie* of rare creatures — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The jail houses a *menagerie* of criminals.

[1]mend /ˈmɛnd/ *verb* **mends**; **mend•ed**; **mend•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to make (something broken or damaged) usable again : to repair (something broken or damaged) ▪ Dad's trying to *mend* [=*fix*] the roof. ▪ The town needs to *mend* these roads. ▪ Fishermen were *mending* their nets. ▪ She spent the evening *mending* (the holes in) her socks. ▪ *mending* a torn sleeve = *mending* a tear in a sleeve — often used figuratively ▪ He's trying to *mend* his reputation. ▪ We've *mended* our differences [=stopped arguing] and agreed on a plan.
2 : to heal or cure (a broken bone, a sad feeling, etc.) [+ *obj*] Surgery was needed to *mend* (the break in) the bone. ▪ Only time can *mend* a broken heart. [=make someone stop being sad] [*no obj*] Her arm *mended* slowly after surgery. ▪ His broken heart never completely *mended*.
mend fences *or* ***mend your fences*** : to improve or repair a relationship that has been damaged by an argument or disagreement ▪ She *mended fences* with her father. ▪ They are trying to *mend their fences*. ▪ After the election, he spent a lot of time *mending* political *fences*.
mend your ways : to change or improve your behavior : to stop behaving badly ▪ It's time (for you) to *mend your ways*. ▪ She told her teenage son to start *mending his ways*.
– **mend•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ road *menders*

[2]mend *noun* [*singular*] : a place where something (such as a piece of clothing) has been repaired ▪ You can hardly see the *mend* in the sleeve.
on the mend : becoming better after an illness or injury ▪ Her broken leg is *on the mend*. ▪ Her health is *on the mend*. : becoming better after a bad or poor period ▪ The country's economy is *on the mend*. ▪ They almost got a divorce, but now their marriage is *on the mend*.

men•da•cious /mɛnˈdeɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal*
1 : not honest : likely to tell lies ▪ a *mendacious* businessman
2 : based on lies ▪ The newspaper story was *mendacious* and hurtful. ▪ a *mendacious* political campaign
– **men•da•cious•ly** *adv* – **men•da•cious•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

men•dac•i•ty /mɛnˈdæsəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : lack of honesty : the condition of being mendacious ▪ The people learned of their government's *mendacity* [=learned that their government had told lies] only after the war had ended.

men•di•cant /ˈmɛndɪkənt/ *noun, pl* **-cants** [*count*] *formal* : someone (such as a member of a religious group) who lives by asking people for money or food ▪ wandering *mendicants*
– **mendicant** *adj* ▪ *mendicant* friars ▪ a *mendicant* monk

men•folk /ˈmɛnˌfoʊk/ *noun* [*plural*] *old-fashioned + humorous* : the men of a family, town, etc. ▪ While the women pre-

pared dinner, the *menfolk* relaxed in the living room.

[1]me•nial /ˈmi:nijəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] — used to describe boring or unpleasant work that does not require special skill and usually does not pay much money ▪ a *menial* job ▪ She thought household chores were *menial* and unimportant. ▪ performing *menial* labor/tasks

[2]menial *noun, pl* **-nials** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a person (such as a servant) who does boring or unpleasant work for little money : someone who does menial work ▪ low-paid *menials*

men•in•gi•tis /ˌmɛnənˈʤaɪtəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a serious and often deadly disease in which an outside layer of the brain or spinal cord becomes infected and swollen ▪ She was diagnosed with spinal *meningitis*.

Men•no•nite /ˈmɛnəˌnaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-nites** [*count*] : a person who belongs to a Christian religious group whose members live simply and wear plain clothing

men•o•pause /ˈmɛnəˌpɑ:z/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the time in a woman's life when blood stops flowing from her body each month : the time when a woman stops menstruating ▪ (*US*) a woman going through *menopause* = (*Brit*) a woman going through ***the menopause*** ✧ Menopause usually occurs when a woman is near the age of 50.

– **men•o•paus•al** /ˌmɛnəˈpɑ:zəl/ *adj* ▪ *menopausal* signs and symptoms ▪ *menopausal* women

me•no•rah /məˈnorə/ *noun, pl* **-rahs** [*count*] : an object that holds seven or nine candles and that is used in Jewish worship



menorah

men•ses /ˈmɛnˌsi:z/ *noun* [*plural*] *medical* : the flow of blood that comes from a woman's body each month

men's room *noun, pl* ~ **rooms** [*count*] *US* : a public bathroom for use by men and boys — called also (*Brit*) *gents*; compare LADIES' ROOM

men•stru•al /ˈmɛnstruwəl/ *adj* : of or relating to menstruation : of or relating to the flow of blood that comes from a woman's body each month ▪ *menstrual* pain ▪ *menstrual* blood ▪ the ***menstrual cycle*** [=the monthly series of changes that happen in the body of a woman who is menstruating]

menstrual period *noun, pl* ~ **-ods** [*count*] : the time when a woman menstruates each month ▪ She experiences pain during her *menstrual period*. — called also *period*

men•stru•ate /ˈmɛnstruˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [*no obj*] *of a woman* : to have blood flow from your body as part of a process that happens each month ▪ She began *menstruating* at the age of 12.

– **men•stru•a•tion** /ˌmɛnstruˈeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

mens•wear /ˈmɛnzˌweɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : clothes for men ▪ The store sells an extensive line of *menswear*. ▪ He works in the *menswear* department.

-ment /mənt/ *noun suffix*

1 : the action or process of doing something ▪ improve*ment* ▪ develop*ment*

2 : the product or result of an action ▪ entertain*ment*

3 : the state or condition caused by an action ▪ amaze*ment* ▪ fulfill*ment*

men•tal /ˈmɛntl/ *adj*

1 a : of or relating to the mind ▪ *mental* abilities ▪ She was worried about her son's *mental* and physical development. ▪ the *mental* state/condition of a criminal ▪ *mental* health **b** : existing or happening in the mind ▪ We had a *mental* image/picture of what we thought the house would look like. ▪ I've got a *mental* list of the things I need at the store. ▪ I'll make a *mental* note to see if we can reschedule the meeting. ▪ *mental* arithmetic [=arithmetic done in your mind without writing numbers or using a calculator]

2 *always used before a noun* **a** : relating to or affected by an illness of the mind ▪ She was beginning to show signs of *mental* illness. ▪ a *mental* disorder ▪ He suffered a *mental* breakdown. ▪ a *mental* patient **b** : caring for people with mental illnesses ▪ *mental* hospitals

3 *informal* : CRAZY ▪ She looked at me as if I had ***gone mental***. ▪ That guy is a complete ***mental case***. [=he is crazy]

– **men•tal•ly** *adv* ▪ *mentally* ill ▪ *mentally* competent ▪ *Mentally* I'm OK, but physically I'm a wreck!

mental age *noun, pl* ~ **ages** [*count*] *technical* : a measurement of a person's ability to think and understand that is expressed as the age at which an average person reaches the same level of ability ▪ a 40-year-old man with the *mental age* of 10

men•tal•i•ty /mɛnˈtæləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*count*] : a particular way of thinking — usually singular ▪ You can only wonder about the *mentality* of someone who does such things. ▪ He criticizes filmmakers for their blockbuster *mentality*. [=for thinking only about making movies that could be blockbusters] ▪ a war *mentality* — see also BUNKER MENTALITY, SIEGE MENTALITY, VICTIM MENTALITY

menthe see CRÈME DE MENTHE

men•thol /ˈmɛnˌθɑ:l/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an oil made from mint that has a strong smell and that is used in candies, cigarettes, and especially medicines for sore throats

– **men•tho•lat•ed** /ˈmɛnθəˌleɪtəd/ *adj* ▪ *mentholated* cigarettes [=cigarettes that contain menthol]

[1]men•tion /ˈmɛnʃən/ *verb* **-tions**; **-tioned**; **-tion•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to talk about, write about, or refer to (something or someone) especially in a brief way ▪ In her speech, she *mentioned* (the help of) her parents, husband, and fellow actors. ▪ She's never *mentioned* anything to me about her husband. ▪ I get nervous every time his name is *mentioned*. ▪ They *mentioned* him by name. ▪ I believe I *mentioned* the problem to you last week. ▪ Most history books don't even *mention* the event. ▪ As previously *mentioned*, his proposal has been widely criticized. ▪ He fails/neglects to *mention*, however, the seriousness of the crime. ▪ She *mentioned* that she would be out of the office the following day. ▪ She has helped me in ways ***too numerous to mention***. [=has helped me in very many ways] ▪ Her contributions were ***mentioned only in passing***. [=mentioned only in a way that was very brief] ▪ ***Now (that) you mention it***, I do remember seeing him before.

2 : to refer to or suggest (someone) *as* having a possible role or status ▪ He's being *mentioned as* a possible candidate. [=people are saying that he is a possible candidate]

don't mention it — used to answer someone who has just thanked you for something ▪ "Thank you so much for your help." "*Don't mention it*. It was the least I could do."

not to mention — used when referring to another thing that relates to what you have just said ▪ Our favorite Italian restaurant makes its own fresh bread and salad dressing, *not to mention* [=*in addition to*] a great spaghetti sauce. ▪ We were cold, wet, and hungry, *not to mention* [=*and also*] extremely tired.

[2]mention *noun, pl* **-tions** : a short statement about something or someone : an act of mentioning something or someone — usually singular [*count*] In her speech, she carefully avoided any *mention* of her costar. ▪ There was barely a *mention* of the plan's possible dangers. ▪ The mere *mention* of blood makes me ill. ▪ I get nervous at the *mention* of his name. ▪ Her contributions deserve a *mention*. [*noncount*] One other issue deserves special *mention*. ▪ Her contributions deserve some *mention*. = Her contributions are ***worthy of mention***. ▪ She ***made mention of*** [=she mentioned] their contributions. ▪ Most history books ***make no mention of*** the event. [=they say nothing about the event] — see also HONORABLE MENTION

[1]men•tor /ˈmɛnˌtoɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : someone who teaches or gives help and advice to a less experienced and often younger person ▪ After college, her professor became her close friend and *mentor*. ▪ He needed a *mentor* to teach him about the world of politics. ▪ We volunteer as *mentors* to/of disadvantaged children. ▪ young boys in need of *mentors*

[2]mentor *verb* **-tors**; **-tored**; **-tor•ing** [+ *obj*] : to teach or give advice or guidance to (someone, such as a less experienced person or a child) : to act as a mentor for (someone) ▪ The young intern was *mentored* by the country's top heart surgeon. ▪ Our program focuses on *mentoring* teenagers.

– **mentoring** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ young boys in need of *mentoring*

menu /ˈmɛnˌju:/ *noun, pl* **men•us** [*count*]

1 a : a list of the foods that may be ordered at a restaurant ▪ I'd like to see your lunch *menu*, please. ▪ What's good on the *menu* today? ▪ There are two chicken dishes under eight dollars listed on the *menu*. **b** : the foods that are served at a meal ▪ When you're planning a dinner party, the choice of (the/your) *menu* is very important.

2 : a list of things that you can choose from ▪ a *menu* of television programs; *especially, computers* : a list shown on a computer from which you make choices to control what the computer does ▪ You can save your work by choosing "Save" from the "File" *menu*. — see also DROP-DOWN MENU, PULL-DOWN MENU

[1]me•ow (*chiefly US*) *or Brit* **mi•aow** /miˈaʊ/ *noun, pl* **me•ows** [*count*] : the crying sound made by a cat

the cat's meow see CAT

[2]meow (*chiefly US*) *or Brit* **miaow** *verb* **meows**; **me•owed**; **me•ow•ing** [*no obj*] *of a cat* : to make a crying sound ▪ We could hear a cat *meowing* at the door.

mer•can•tile /ˈmə˞kənˌti:l, ˈmə˞kənˌtajəl/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : of or relating to the business of buying and selling products to earn money : of or relating to trade or merchants ▪ *mercantile* policy ▪ a small *mercantile* [=*merchant*] town ▪ wealthy *mercantile* families

[1]mer•ce•nary /ˈmə˞səˌneri, *Brit* ˈmə:sənəri/ *noun, pl* **-nar•ies** [*count*] : a soldier who is paid by a foreign country to fight in its army : a soldier who will fight for any group or country that hires him ▪ an army of foreign *mercenaries*

[2]mercenary *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* : hired to fight ▪ *mercenary* armies ▪ a *mercenary* soldier

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving* : caring only about making money ▪ His motives in choosing a career were purely *mercenary*. ▪ a *mercenary* [=*greedy*] businesswoman

[1]mer•chan•dise /ˈmə˞tʃənˌdaɪz/ *noun* [*noncount*] *somewhat formal* : goods that are bought and sold ▪ We sell quality *merchandise*. ▪ The *merchandise* will arrive by truck at noon. ▪ He's developed his own brand of *merchandise*.

[2]merchandise *verb* **-dis•es**; **-dised**; **-dis•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make the public aware of (a product being offered for sale) by using advertising and other methods ▪ *merchandising* women's shoes

2 : to present (someone) to the public like a product being offered for sale ▪ *merchandise* a movie star ▪ The political candidates are being *merchandised* to the public.

– **mer•chan•dis•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ *Merchandisers* decorated their stores' windows for the holidays.

mer•chan•dis•ing /ˈmə˞tʃənˌdaɪzɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the activity of trying to sell goods or services by advertising them or displaying them attractively ▪ She is the company's director of *merchandising*.

2 : the activity of selling products that are related to something (such as a television show, movie, or sports team) in order to make more money ▪ The film made a lot of money thanks to strong *merchandising*. ▪ Most of the movie's earnings came from *merchandising* and not ticket sales.

[1]mer•chant /ˈmə˞tʃənt/ *noun, pl* **-chants** [*count*]

1 *somewhat old-fashioned* : someone who buys and sells goods especially in large amounts ▪ a wine *merchant* [=*dealer*] ▪ *Merchants* traveled hundreds of miles to trade in the city. ▪ a family of wealthy *merchants*

2 *chiefly US or Scotland* : the owner or manager of a store ▪ The town's *merchants* closed their shops during the parade. ▪ Prizes were given by local *merchants*.

3 *informal* : someone who is known for a particular quality, activity, etc. ▪ He's a real ***speed merchant*** [=he runs very fast] ▪ ***doom merchants*** [=people who are always saying that bad things are going to happen]

[2]merchant *adj, always used before a noun* : used for or involved in trading goods ▪ *merchant* ships ▪ a society's *merchant* class ▪ a wealthy *merchant* family

mer•chant•able /ˈmə˞tʃəntəbəl/ *adj, law* : of good enough quality to be sold ▪ *merchantable* wood

merchant bank *noun, pl* ~ **banks** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a bank for large companies that trade goods in other countries – **merchant banker** *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] – **merchant banking** *noun* [*noncount*]

merchant marine *noun* [*singular*] *chiefly US* : all of a country's ships that are used for trading goods rather than for war; *also* : the people who work such ships ▪ a member of the *merchant marine* — called also (*Brit*) *merchant navy*

merchant seaman *noun, pl* ~ **-men** [*count*] : a sailor who works on a ship involved in trading goods : a member of the merchant marine

mer•ci•ful /ˈmə˞sɪfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : treating people with kindness and forgiveness : not cruel or harsh : having or showing mercy ▪ a *merciful* ruler ▪ a *merciful* god ▪ He became less *merciful* to his enemies. ▪ a *merciful* decision

2 : giving relief from suffering ▪ He died a quick and *merciful* death. ▪ The movie at last came to a *merciful* end. [=the movie was so bad that its ending was a relief]

mer•ci•ful•ly /ˈmə˞sɪfəli/ *adv*

1 : in a kind or merciful way ▪ His crimes have been dealt with *mercifully*.

2 : in a good or lucky way ▪ He makes movies that are *mercifully* free of violence. [=it is good that his movies do not have much violence] ▪ The lecture was *mercifully* brief. [=I was glad that the lecture was so brief] ▪ *Mercifully*, the professor always makes our tests easy.

mer•ci•less /ˈmə˞sɪləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing no mercy : very cruel or harsh ▪ a *merciless* killer ▪ a *merciless* army ▪ the *merciless* killing of innocent people ▪ *merciless* honesty ▪ He has been *merciless* in his criticism of his opponent.

– **mer•ci•less•ly** *adv* ▪ *mercilessly* honest criticism ▪ the *mercilessly* hot sun

mer•cu•ri•al /mə˞ˈkjə˞rijəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 a : changing moods quickly and often — used to describe someone who often changes from being happy to being angry or upset in a quick and unexpected way ▪ a *mercurial* movie star ▪ She had a *mercurial* personality/disposition. ▪ *mercurial* behavior **b** : changing often : very changeable ▪ *mercurial* weather

2 : very lively and quick ▪ *mercurial* wit

mer•cu•ry /ˈmə˞kjə˞ri/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] **a** : a silver metal that is liquid at normal temperatures **b** : the mercury in a thermometer that shows the air's temperature ▪ In the summer, the *mercury* can reach over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. ▪ By late afternoon, the *mercury* had dropped (to) below zero.

2 *Mercury* [*singular*] : the planet that is closest to the sun

mer•cy /ˈmə˞si/ *noun, pl* **-cies**

1 [*noncount*] : kind or forgiving treatment of someone who could be treated harshly ▪ He is a vicious criminal who deserves no *mercy*. ▪ She fell to her knees and asked/begged/pleaded for *mercy*. ▪ Have you no *mercy*? = Are you utterly without *mercy*? ▪ May God ***have mercy*** on us all. [=may God treat us all with kindness and forgiveness] ▪ He ***showed no mercy*** to his enemies. = He *showed* his enemies *no mercy*. [=he treated his enemies very harshly] ▪ The boss ***took mercy on*** us [=he treated us kindly] and let us go home early. ▪ a man ***of mercy*** [=a man who treats other people with kindness and forgiveness] ▪ The prisoner confessed his crimes and ***threw himself on the mercy of*** the court. [=the prisoner begged the court for mercy]

2 [*noncount*] : kindness or help given to people who are in a very bad or desperate situation ▪ an act of *mercy* ▪ They came on a ***mission/errand of mercy*** to provide food and medical care for starving children. ▪ a ***mercy mission***

3 [*count*] : a good or lucky fact or situation ▪ It's a *mercy* that the building was empty when the fire started. ▪ We should be ***grateful/thankful for small mercies***. [=even though bad things have happened to us, we should be grateful that our situation is not worse] ▪ Thank heaven *for small mercies*.

4 *old-fashioned + informal* — used as an interjection to show surprise ▪ *Mercy*! That wind is cold! ▪ I'm not hungry, but *mercy* [=*heavens, goodness*], that food sure does smell good! ▪ ***Mercy me***! That wind is cold.

at the mercy of *or* ***at someone's or something's mercy*** : in a position or situation in which you can be harmed by (someone or something you cannot control) ▪ With no way to control the ship, we were *at the mercy of* the sea. ▪ The people were *at the mercy of* the advancing army. = The army advanced, and the people were *at their mercy*. [=the people could do nothing to defend themselves from the army] ▪ Our plans were *at the mercy of* the weather.

to the mercy of *or* ***to the (tender) mercies of*** : without any protection from (someone or something you cannot control) ▪ He had to leave his boat *to the mercy of* the storm. ▪ As the army retreated, the people were left *to the mercies of* the advancing enemy.

mercy killing *noun, pl* ~ **-ings** : the killing of someone who is very sick or injured in order to prevent any further suffering [*count*] Some called her death a *mercy killing*. [*noncount*] He is opposed to *mercy killing*. [=*euthanasia*]

mere /ˈmiə˞/ *adj, always used before a noun* **mer•est**

1 — used to say that something or someone is small, unimportant, etc. ▪ She was a *mere* child [=she was only a child] when her father died. ▪ His voice did not rise above a *mere* whisper. = His voice did not rise above the *merest* [=*slightest*] whisper. ▪ You can taste a *mere* hint of spice. = You can taste the *merest* hint of spice. ▪ The trip takes a *mere* two hours. [=the trip takes only two hours] ▪ You can own this car for a *mere* 20 dollars a week. ▪ These mysteries can't be solved by *mere* mortals like us.

2 — used to say that something small is important or has a big effect or influence ▪ The *mere* thought of going makes me nervous. ▪ The *mere* fact that he agreed to help us is a good sign. ▪ The *mere/merest* mention of his name makes her

angry. ▪ He gets sick at the *merest* sight of blood.

mere•ly /'miəli/ *adv* : ONLY, JUST — used to say that someone or something is small, unimportant, etc. ▪ This is *merely* a minor delay. ▪ They were *merely* children when their father died. ▪ Was it *merely* a coincidence? ▪ It was *merely* a suggestion. — used to describe the only reason for something or the only effect of something ▪ She got the job *merely* because her father owns the company. [=the only reason she got the job was because her father owns the company] ▪ Your essay *merely* hints at the real problem. ▪ You shouldn't blame her. She was *merely* following orders. [=she was following orders and not doing anything more than that] ▪ I'm not criticizing you. I'm *merely* suggesting that we try a new approach.

not merely — used to say that one thing is true and that another thing is also true ▪ He was *not merely* a great baseball player, he was also a great person.

mer•e•tri•cious /ˌmerə'trɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal + disapproving* : attractive in a cheap or false way ▪ *meretricious* beauty

merge /'məʤ/ *verb* **merg•es**; **merged**; **merg•ing**

1 a [+ *obj*] : to cause (two or more things, such as two companies) to come together and become one thing ▪ They planned to *merge* [=*combine, unite*] the two companies. ▪ Their music *merges* [=*blends, combines*] different styles from around the world. : to join or unite (one thing) *with* another ▪ To save the business, the owners decided to *merge* it *with* one of their competitors. **b** [*no obj*] : to become joined or united ▪ The two banks *merged* to form one large institution. ▪ Many small companies have been forced to *merge*. ▪ Three lanes of traffic all *merge* at this point. — often + *with* ▪ Many small companies have been forced to *merge with* other small companies. — often + *into* ▪ The two former rivals have *merged into* one large business. ▪ Three lanes of traffic *merge into* one.

2 [*no obj*] : to change into or become part of something else in a very gradual way ▪ Day slowly *merged* into night. ▪ Along the coast the mountains gradually *merge* with the shore. ▪ She *merged* into the crowd and disappeared.

merg•er /'məʤə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : the act or process of combining two or more businesses into one business ▪ The law firm announced its $50 million *merger* with one of its competitors. ▪ If the proposed *merger* of the two oil companies goes through, it would be bad for the economy.

me•rid•i•an /mə'rɪdijən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*] : any one of the lines that go from the North Pole to the South Pole on maps of the world — see also PRIME MERIDIAN

me•ringue /mə'ræŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ringues** [*count, noncount*] : a light, sweet mixture of egg whites and sugar that is baked and used as a topping for pies and cakes ▪ a layer of *meringue* ▪ lemon *meringue* pie

[1]mer•it /'merət/ *noun, pl* **-its**

1 [*count*] : a good quality or feature that deserves to be praised ▪ The great *merit* [=*advantage, strength*] of this plan is its simplicity. — usually plural ▪ The plan has many *merits*. ▪ It's difficult to judge the *merits* of her proposal. ▪ We were talking about the ***relative merits*** of running and walking as kinds of exercise. ▪ The five contestants will be judged ***on their own merits***. [=they will be judged by looking at their skills and their good and bad qualities] ▪ We should consider each idea *on its merits*. [=we should consider the good and bad things about each idea]

2 [*noncount*] *formal* : the quality of being good, important, or useful : value or worth ▪ His ideas have (some) *merit*. ▪ She saw *merit* in both of the arguments. ▪ Their idea is without *merit*. = Their idea has no *merit*. ▪ The study has no scientific *merit*. ▪ Hiring decisions are based entirely ***on merit***. [=people are hired because they have the skills to do the job well]

[2]merit *verb* **-its**; **-it•ed**; **-it•ing** [+ *obj*] : to deserve (something, such as attention or good treatment) by being important or good ▪ Both ideas *merit* further consideration. ▪ These issues *merit* special attention. ▪ His good work *merits* a raise. ▪ She did well enough to *merit* a second interview. ▪ The attention she received was not *merited*.

mer•i•to•ri•ous /ˌmerə'torijəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : deserving honor or praise ▪ She was given an award for *meritorious* service. ▪ *meritorious* conduct ▪ a *meritorious* [=*praiseworthy*] achievement

mer•maid /'məˌmeɪd/ *noun, pl* **-maids** [*count*] : an imaginary sea creature that has a woman's head and body and a fish's tail instead of legs

mer•ri•ment /'merɪmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : laughter and enjoyment ▪ a time of great joy and *merriment* ▪ Their house was always filled with *merriment*. ▪ My embarrassment was a cause/source of great *merriment* among my friends. [=my friends were very amused by my embarrassment]

mer•ry /'meri/ *adj* **mer•ri•er**; **-est** *somewhat old-fashioned*

1 : very happy and cheerful : feeling or showing joy and happiness ▪ Let's eat, drink, and be *merry*! ▪ They sang a *merry* little song. ▪ a *merry* man ▪ *merry* laughter

2 : causing joy and happiness ▪ a very *merry* occasion

go on your merry way **1** *or* ***be on your merry way*** : to leave a place ▪ Soon I'll *be on my merry way*. [=soon I'll be leaving] **2** *often disapproving* : to continue doing what you have been doing ▪ She just *goes on her merry way*, loving men and then breaking their hearts.

lead (someone) a merry chase/dance see [1]LEAD

make merry *old-fashioned* : to have fun and enjoy yourself by eating, drinking, dancing, etc. ▪ They *made merry* throughout the night.

Merry Christmas — used to wish someone an enjoyable Christmas holiday ▪ *Merry Christmas* to you and your family. ▪ We wish you a *Merry Christmas* and a happy New Year!

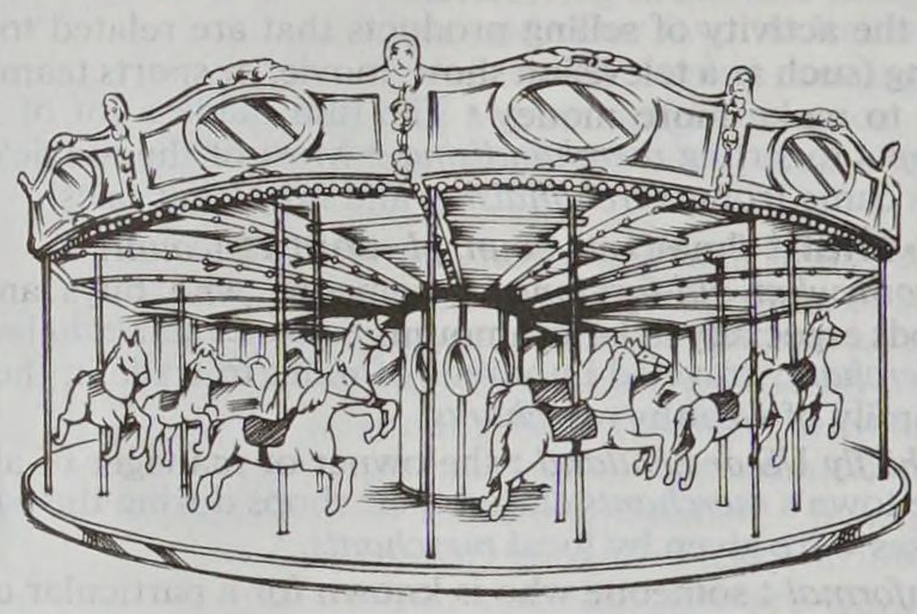
the more the merrier — used to say that more people are welcome or invited to do something ▪ "Can I bring my friends to the party?" "Of course, *the more the merrier*!"

– mer•ri•ly /'merəli/ *adv* ▪ laughing *merrily* **– mer•ri•ness** /'merinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *merriness* of the occasion

mer•ry–go–round /'merigoʊˌraʊnd/ *noun, pl* **-rounds** [*count*]

1 : a large round platform that turns around in a circle and has seats and figures of animals (such as horses) on which children sit for a ride ▪ We rode the *merry-go-round* at the town fair. — called also (*US*) *carousel*, (*Brit*) *roundabout*

2 : a set or series of repeated activities that are quick, confusing, or difficult to leave ▪ a *merry-go-round* of parties ▪ She couldn't get off the legal *merry-go-round*.



merry-go-round

mer•ry•mak•ing /'meriˌmeɪkɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : fun and enjoyment : joyful celebration that includes eating, drinking, singing, and dancing ▪ a night of *merrymaking*

– mer•ry•mak•er /'meriˌmeɪkə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a crowd of *merrymakers*

me•sa /'meɪsə/ *noun, pl* **-sas** [*count*] : a hill that has a flat top and steep sides and that is found in the southwestern U.S. — see color picture on page C7

mes•ca•line *also Brit* **mes•ca•lin** /'mɛskələn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a drug that comes from a cactus and that makes people see things that are not real

mes•clun /'mɛsklən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : a mixture of young leaves from different plants (such as different types of lettuce) that is eaten as a salad

mesdames *plural of* MADAM 1, MADAME

mesdemoiselles *plural of* MADEMOISELLE

[1]mesh /'mɛʃ/ *noun, pl* **mesh•es** : a material made from threads or wires with evenly spaced holes that allow air or water to pass through [*noncount*] We covered the blueberry bushes in nylon *mesh* to keep the birds from the fruit. ▪ wire *mesh* [*count*] a wire *mesh* — sometimes used figuratively ▪ She was caught in a *mesh* [=(more commonly) *web*] of her own lies.

[2]mesh *verb* **meshes**; **meshed**; **mesh•ing**

1 a [+ *obj*] : to cause (things) to fit together or work together successfully ▪ They *meshed* traditions from several cultures into one wedding ceremony. ▪ The book tries to *mesh* philosophy and/with humor. **b** [*no obj*] : to fit or work together successfully ▪ The two plans *mesh* well/nicely. — often + *with* ▪ The movie's score *meshes* well *with* its somber plot. ▪ He never *meshed with* the rest of the team.

2 [*no obj*] *of the parts of a machine* : to fit together and move together properly ▪ The gears weren't *meshing* properly.

mes·mer·ize *also Brit* **mes·mer·ise** /ˈmɛzməˌraɪz/ *verb* **-iz·es**; **-ized**; **-iz·ing** [+ *obj*] : to hold the attention of (someone) entirely : to interest or amaze (someone) so much that nothing else is seen or noticed — usually used as *(be) mesmerized* ▪ The crowd *was mesmerized* by the acrobats.
– **mesmerizing** *also Brit* **mesmerising** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ a *mesmerizing* voice/performance/beat

mes·quite /məˈskiːt/ *noun, pl* **-quites** [*count*] : a tree or bush that grows in the southwestern U.S. and Mexico and that has a hard wood which is often used in grilling food because of the special flavor produced by its smoke; *also* [*noncount*] : the wood of the mesquite

[1]mess /ˈmɛs/ *noun, pl* **mess·es**
1 a [*count*] : a very dirty or untidy state or condition — usually singular ▪ We found the papers in a *mess*. ▪ It took years to clean up the *mess* caused by the oil spill. ▪ She's the only cook in the family who never ***makes a mess*** of/in the kitchen. **b** [*singular*] : something or someone that looks very dirty or untidy ▪ The apartment was a *mess* when he left it. = He left the apartment a *mess*. ▪ He was a *mess* after gardening all day. ▪ My hair is a *mess*.
2 [*count*] **a** : a situation that is very complicated or difficult to deal with ▪ I don't know how the economy got to be (in) such a *mess*. ▪ Well, that's another fine *mess* you've gotten me into! ▪ How do we get ourselves into these *messes*? **b** : something that is not organized well or working correctly ▪ The school system is a *mess*. ▪ Things were a real *mess* for a while after she retired. ▪ My life is a complete *mess*.
3 [*singular*] *informal* **a** : someone who is very unhappy, confused, etc. ▪ She was a real *mess* for a while after her divorce. **b** *US* : someone who is showing a lot of emotion especially by crying ▪ He was a *mess* during his daughter's wedding ceremony.
4 [*count*] : the place where people in the military eat ▪ the officers' *mess* — called also *mess hall*
5 [*singular*] *US, informal* : a large amount of something — + *of* ▪ a *mess of* cash ▪ a *mess of* cabbage/greens/peas ▪ They're in a *mess of* trouble. [=a lot of trouble]
6 *informal* : solid waste from an animal [*count*] The puppy made a *mess* on the rug. [*noncount*] cleaning up dog *mess*
make a mess of : to ruin (something) or to make many mistakes in doing (something) ▪ The scandal *made a mess of* his political career. ▪ The weather *made a mess of* our plans. ▪ He *made a mess of* his speech.

[2]mess *verb* **messes**; **messed**; **mess·ing**
mess around *or Brit* ***mess about*** [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** : to spend time doing things that are not useful or serious : to waste time ▪ We just *messed around* [=*fooled around*] all afternoon. ▪ She spent the evening *messing around* on the computer. ▪ It's time we stopped *messing around* and got busy. **2** : to have sex with someone who is not your husband, wife, or regular partner ▪ His wife discovered that he was *messing around* [=*fooling around*] (on her). — often + *with* ▪ His wife discovered that he was *messing around with* his secretary. **3** ***mess (someone) around/about*** *Brit* : to cause problems or trouble for (someone) especially by making changes that are not expected ▪ I don't like being *messed about* this way! **4** ***mess around/about with (something)*** **a** : to use or do (something) in a way that is not very serious ▪ I'm not really a painter; I just like to *mess around with* paints. ▪ She spent the evening *messing around with* [=*fooling around with*] the computer. **b** : to handle or play with (something) in a careless or foolish way ▪ Stop *messing around* [=*fiddling around*] *with* the stereo.
mess up [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** : to make a mistake : to do something incorrectly ▪ About halfway into the recipe, I realized that I had *messed up*, and I had to start over. — often + *on* ▪ She's afraid she'll *mess up on* the test. ▪ I *messed up on* my first attempt. **2** ***mess (something) up*** *or* ***mess up (something)*** **a** : to make mistakes when you are doing or making (something) ▪ He *messed up* the speech. ▪ I *messed up* my first attempt and had to try again. **b** : to make (something) dirty or untidy : to make a mess of (something) ▪ Don't *mess up* my room. ▪ The wind *messed up* her hair. = Her hair got *messed up* in the wind. **c** : to damage or ruin (something) ▪ She's really *messed up* her life. ▪ His life has been *messed up* by his drug addiction. : to damage or change (something) so that it does not work properly ▪ I don't know what I did, but I somehow *messed up* the computer. ▪ My watch has been *messed up* [=has not worked properly] ever since I dropped it in the sink. ▪ The mountains *messed up* the cell phone signal. **3** ***mess (someone) up*** *or* ***mess up (someone)*** **a** *US* : to beat and injure (someone) ▪ He got *messed up* [=*roughed up, beaten up*] by a gang of bullies. ▪ They *messed* him *up* pretty badly. **b** : to make (someone) very upset and unhappy ▪ Breaking up with her boyfriend has really *messed* her *up*. ▪ She's been pretty *messed up* ever since she broke up with her boyfriend.
mess with [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** ***mess with (someone)*** : to cause trouble for (someone) : to deal with (someone) in a way that may cause anger or violence ▪ I wouldn't want to *mess with* him. ▪ You'd better not be *messing with* me. **2** ***mess with (something)*** **a** *chiefly US* : to deal with or be involved with (something that causes or that could cause trouble) ▪ The company doesn't want to *mess with* small distributors. ▪ He doesn't want to *mess with* cocaine anymore. **b** : to handle or play with (something) in a careless way : to mess around with (something) ▪ Don't *mess with* the camera. **3** ✧ In very informal English, something that ***messes with your mind/head*** causes you to feel confused. ▪ The movie *messes with your mind* and you don't find out what's going on until the end.

mes·sage /ˈmɛsɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-sag·es**
1 [*count*] : a piece of information that is sent or given to someone ▪ an e-mail *message* ▪ deliver/send/receive a *message* ▪ Did you get my *message*? ▪ She has received *messages* of support/sympathy from hundreds of people. ▪ Were there any *messages* for me? = Did anyone ***leave a message*** for me? ▪ I *left a message* on her answering machine. ▪ He's not here right now. Can I ***take a message***? ▪ The computer displayed an ***error message***. [=a message indicating that an error has occurred] — see also TEXT MESSAGE
2 [*singular*] : an important idea that someone is trying to express in a book, movie, speech, etc. ▪ I liked the story but I didn't really agree with the book's *message*. ▪ He believed in the church's *message* of forgiveness. ▪ She hopes the speech will help her to get the party's *message* across. [=help her to tell people what the party believes or stands for]
get the message *informal* : to understand something that is not being said directly ▪ When they didn't return my phone calls, I finally *got the message*. [=I finally realized that they did not want to talk to me] ▪ He gave her an angry look, hoping she'd *get the message*.
mixed messages see MIXED
off message : saying things that do not agree with the official position of a political group or party ▪ A few Cabinet members seem *off message* on government policy.
on message : saying things that agree with the official position of a political group or party ▪ The President wants everyone to be/get back *on message* when giving interviews.

message board *noun, pl* **~ boards** [*count*] : a public computer system on the Internet that allows people to read and leave messages for other users — called also *bulletin board*

mes·sag·ing /ˈmɛsɪʤɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a system used for sending messages electronically ▪ an electronic *messaging* system/service ▪ wireless *messaging* — see also INSTANT MESSAGING

mes·sen·ger /ˈmɛsnʤɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*] : someone who delivers a message or does other small jobs that involve going somewhere ▪ Their company's *messenger* brought us the plans. = The company's plans were brought to us by *messenger*. ▪ They sent a *messenger* to pick up the package.
blame/shoot the messenger : to become angry at someone who has told you bad news

mess hall *noun, pl* **~ halls** [*count*] : [1]MESS 4

mes·si·ah /məˈsajə/ *noun, pl* **-ahs**
1 ***the Messiah*** **a** *Judaism* : a king who will be sent by God to save the Jews **b** *Christianity* : Jesus Christ
2 [*count*] : a person who is expected to save people from a very bad situation ▪ They thought the new principal was the *messiah* the school had been hoping for. ▪ a political *messiah*

mes·si·an·ic /ˌmɛsiˈænɪk/ *adj*
1 : relating to or having the qualities of a messiah ▪ a *messianic* political leader
2 : supporting a social, political, or religious cause or set of beliefs with great enthusiasm and energy ▪ *messianic* zeal

Messrs. (*US*) *or Brit* **Messrs** /ˈmɛsəz/ — used as a formal plural of *Mr.* ▪ *Messrs.* Lowry and Jones, Attorneys at Law

messy /ˈmɛsi/ *adj* **mess·i·er**; **-est**
1 : not clean or tidy ▪ a very *messy* room ▪ *messy* papers

2 : carelessly made or done : not careful or precise ▪ *messy* [=*sloppy*] thinking

3 : causing or involving a mess ▪ a *messy* pen ▪ Painting a room can be *messy* work. : likely to make something dirty or sticky ▪ Some kinds of glue are *messier* than others. ▪ *messy* hair gel ▪ a delicious but *messy* sandwich

4 : very unpleasant and complicated ▪ a *messy* divorce/scandal ▪ I heard all of the *messy* details of the lawsuit.

– **mess·i·ly** /ˈmɛsəli/ *adv* ▪ She splattered the paint *messily* [=*sloppily, carelessly*] on the wall. – **mess·i·ness** /ˈmɛsinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

met *past tense and past participle of* ¹MEET

meta- /mɛtə/ *prefix*

1 : change ▪ *meta*morphosis

2 : more than : beyond ▪ *meta*physics

me·tab·o·lism /məˈtæbəˌlɪzəm/ *noun, pl* **-lisms** *biology* : the chemical processes by which a plant or an animal uses food, water, etc., to grow and heal and to make energy [*count*] studying the *metabolisms* of various organisms ▪ Regular exercise can help to increase your *metabolism*. [=increase the rate at which your body turns food into energy] [*noncount*] protein *metabolism*

– **met·a·bol·ic** /ˌmɛtəˈbɑːlɪk/ *adj* ▪ *metabolic* rate ▪ a *metabolic* disorder – **met·a·bol·ic·al·ly** /ˌmɛtəˈbɑːlɪkli/ *adv*

me·tab·o·lize *also Brit* **me·tab·o·lise** /məˈtæbəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-liz·es**; **-lized**; **-liz·ing** [+ *obj*] *biology* : to change (food) into a form that can be used by your body : to process and use (substances brought into your body) by metabolism ▪ *metabolizing* nutrients ▪ Food is *metabolized* by the body.

met·al /ˈmɛtl/ *noun, pl* **-als** : a substance (such as gold, tin, or copper) that usually has a shiny appearance, is a good conductor of electricity and heat, can be melted, and is usually capable of being shaped [*noncount*] scraps/strips/sheets/lumps/pieces of *metal* ▪ a mixture of various kinds of *metal* ▪ sculptors who work in *metal* and clay [*count*] a mixture of different *metals* ▪ Gold is a *metal*. — often used before another noun ▪ *metal* bowls ▪ a *metal* roof — see also HEAVY METAL, SHEET METAL, *precious metal* at PRECIOUS

put the pedal to the metal see ¹PEDAL

me·tal·lic /məˈtælɪk/ *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : resembling metal: such as **a** : shiny like metal ▪ a *metallic* blue color ▪ We chose a paint with a *metallic* luster. **b** : tasting like metal ▪ The medicine has a *metallic* taste.

2 : made of metal or containing metal ▪ *metallic* threads ▪ Silver is a *metallic* element.

3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a harsh sound ▪ a *metallic* [=*grating*] voice ▪ the *metallic* screech of the car's brakes

met·al·lur·gy /ˈmɛtlˌɚʤi, *Brit* məˈtæləʤi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a science that deals with the nature and uses of metal ▪ studying *metallurgy*

– **met·al·lur·gi·cal** /ˌmɛtlˈɚʤɪkəl/ *adj* ▪ *metallurgical* techniques – **met·al·lur·gist** /ˈmɛtlˌɚʤɪst, *Brit* məˈtæləʤɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*] ▪ an expert *metallurgist*

met·al·work /ˈmɛtlˌwɚk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : things that are made out of metal; *especially* : metal objects that are made in an artistic and skillful way ▪ fine *metalwork* ▪ a beautiful piece of *metalwork*

met·al·work·ing /ˈmɛtlˌwɚkɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the act or process of making things out of metal ▪ ancient *metalworking* techniques

– **met·al·work·er** /ˈmɛtlˌwɚkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a skillful *metalworker*

meta·mor·phose /ˌmɛtəˈmoɚˌfoʊz/ *verb* **-phos·es**; **-phosed**; **-phos·ing** [*no obj*] : to change in an important and obvious way into something that is very different : to undergo metamorphosis — usually + *into* ▪ This once-small company has *metamorphosed into* an industrial giant. ▪ She has *metamorphosed* from a shy schoolgirl *into* a self-confident young businesswoman. ▪ studying the process by which caterpillars *metamorphose into* butterflies

meta·mor·pho·sis /ˌmɛtəˈmoɚfəsəs/ *noun, pl* **-pho·ses** /-fəˌsiːz/

1 : a major change in the appearance or character of someone or something [*count*] We have watched her *metamorphosis* from a shy schoolgirl into a self-confident businesswoman. ▪ a company that has gone through a series of *metamorphoses* [*noncount*] The government has undergone political *metamorphosis* since his election.

2 *biology* : a major change in the form or structure of some animals or insects that happens as the animal or insect becomes an adult [*noncount*] the *metamorphosis* of tadpoles into frogs ▪ The class learned about how caterpillars undergo *metamorphosis* to become butterflies. [*count*] caterpillars undergoing *metamorphoses*

met·a·phor /ˈmɛtəˌfoɚ, *Brit* ˈmɛtəfə/ *noun, pl* **-phors**

1 : a word or phrase for one thing that is used to refer to another thing in order to show or suggest that they are similar [*count*] "He was drowning in paperwork" is a *metaphor* in which having to deal with a lot of paperwork is being compared to drowning in an ocean of water. ▪ Her poems include many imaginative *metaphors*. [*noncount*] a poet admired for her use of *metaphor* — compare SIMILE; see also MIXED METAPHOR

2 [*count*] : an object, activity, or idea that is used as a symbol of something else — often + *for* ▪ The author uses flight as a *metaphor for* freedom. ▪ The veil is a *metaphor for* [=*symbol of*] secrecy.

– **met·a·phor·i·cal** /ˌmɛtəˈforɪkəl/ *adj* ▪ a *metaphorical* description of children as plants growing in a garden ▪ In this class, we'll be taking a *metaphorical* journey through Russian literature of the 19th century. – **met·a·phor·i·cal·ly** /ˌmɛtəˈforɪkli/ *adv* ▪ speaking *metaphorically*

meta·phys·i·cal /ˌmɛtəˈfɪzɪkəl/ *adj*

1 : of, relating to, or based on metaphysics ▪ *metaphysical* philosophy ▪ *metaphysical* questions

2 : of or relating to things that are thought to exist but that cannot be seen ▪ a *metaphysical* world of spirits

– **meta·phys·i·cal·ly** /ˌmɛtəˈfɪzɪkli/ *adv*

meta·phys·ics /ˌmɛtəˈfɪzɪks/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the part of philosophy that is concerned with the basic causes and nature of things

mete /ˈmiːt/ *verb* **metes**; **met·ed**; **met·ing**

mete out [*phrasal verb*] ***mete (something) out*** *or* ***mete out (something)*** : to give (something) to the people who you decide should get it : to give out or distribute (something) ▪ We're trying to be fair in *meting out* rewards and punishments. — usually used to refer to something unpleasant (such as punishment) ▪ Huge fines were *meted out* as punishment. ▪ The king *meted out* justice as he saw fit.

me·te·or /ˈmiːtijɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ors** [*count*] : a piece of rock or metal that burns and glows brightly in the sky as it falls from outer space into the Earth's atmosphere ▪ a ***meteor shower*** [=a large number of meteors seen in a short time]

me·te·or·ic /ˌmiːtiˈorɪk/ *adj*

1 : very sudden or fast ▪ a *meteoric* rise to fame ▪ a *meteoric* ascent ▪ a *meteoric* fall

2 : marked by very quick success ▪ a *meteoric* career

me·te·or·ite /ˈmiːtijəˌraɪt/ *noun, pl* **-ites** [*count*] : a piece of rock or metal that has fallen to the ground from outer space : a meteor that reaches the surface of the Earth without burning up entirely

me·te·o·rol·o·gy /ˌmiːtijəˈrɑːləʤi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a science that deals with the atmosphere and with weather

– **me·te·o·ro·log·i·cal** /ˌmiːtijərəˈlɑːʤɪkəl/ *adj* ▪ *meteorological* forecasts ▪ *meteorological* conditions – **me·te·o·rol·o·gist** /ˌmiːtiəˈrɑːləʤɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*] ▪ a storm forecast by *meteorologists*

¹me·ter /ˈmiːtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*]

1 : a device that measures and records the amount of something that has been used ▪ a gas *meter* ▪ a water *meter*

2 : PARKING METER ▪ He left the restaurant to ***feed the meter.*** [=to put more money in the parking meter]

– compare ²METER, ³METER

²meter (*US*) *or Brit* **me·tre** *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : the basic metric unit of length equal to about 39.37 inches — compare ¹METER, ³METER

³meter (*US*) *or Brit* **metre** *noun, pl* **-ters** : a way of arranging the sounds or beats in poetry : a particular rhythmic pattern in poetry [*count*] the poet's use of different *meters* [*noncount*] the poet's use of rhyme and *meter* — compare ¹METER, ²METER

-meter *noun combining form* : device used to measure something ▪ bar*ometer* ▪ thermo*meter*

meter maid *noun, pl* ~ **maids** [*count*] *chiefly US, somewhat old-fashioned* : a woman whose job is to find vehicles that are parked illegally

meth·a·done /ˈmɛθəˌdoʊn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a drug that people take to help them stop taking heroin

meth·ane /ˈmɛˌθeɪn, *Brit* ˈmiːˌθeɪn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a colorless gas that has no smell and that can be burned for fuel

meth·a·nol /ˈmɛθəˌnɑːl/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : a poisonous alcohol that is used to keep liquids from freezing, as a fuel, etc. — called also *methyl alcohol*

me•thinks /mɪˈθɪŋks/ *verb* **me•thought** /mɪˈθɑːt/ *literary* + *humorous* : I think ▪ It's going to rain, *methinks*. [=I think it's going to rain] ▪ *Methought* [=I thought] I heard him calling.

meth•od /ˈmɛθəd/ *noun, pl* **-ods**

1 [*count*] : a way of doing something ▪ He claims to have developed a new *method* for growing tomatoes. ▪ Their teaching *method* tries to adapt lessons to each student. ▪ We need to adopt more modern *methods* of doing things. — see also SCIENTIFIC METHOD

2 [*noncount*] *formal* : a careful or organized plan that controls the way something is done ▪ The book lacks *method*. [=the book is not arranged in an orderly way]

(a) method in/to your madness ✧ If there is *method in your madness* or (*US*) *(a) method to your madness*, there are good reasons for your actions even though they may seem foolish or strange. ▪ Though his staff is often confused by the way he runs the office, I've found that there's *method in his madness*.

me•thod•i•cal /məˈθɑːdɪkəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : done by using a careful and organized procedure ▪ a *methodical* search ▪ Their *methodical* review of the evidence exposed some problems with the study's findings.

2 : working in a very careful and organized way ▪ She's a slow and *methodical* worker, and her drawings reflect the extra care she takes.

– **me•thod•i•cal•ly** /məˈθɑːdɪkli/ *adv* ▪ They are *methodically* reviewing the evidence.

Meth•od•ist /ˈmɛθədɪst/ *adj* : of or relating to any one of several Christian churches that follow the teachings of John Wesley ▪ He comes from a family of *Methodist* preachers. ▪ a *Methodist* church

– **Meth•od•ism** /ˈmɛθəˌdɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]

– **Methodist** *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*]

meth•od•ol•o•gy /ˌmɛθəˈdɑːlədʒi/ *noun, pl* **-gies** : a set of methods, rules, or ideas that are important in a science or art : a particular procedure or set of procedures [*count*] scientific theories and *methodologies* [*noncount*] He blamed the failure of their research on poor *methodology*.

methyl alcohol /ˈmɛθəl-/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : METHANOL

me•tic•u•lous /məˈtɪkjələs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very careful about doing something in an extremely accurate and exact way ▪ He described the scene in *meticulous* detail. ▪ She did *meticulous* work. ▪ He keeps *meticulous* records. ▪ He is *meticulous* about keeping accurate records. ▪ She's a *meticulous* researcher.

– **me•tic•u•lous•ly** *adv* ▪ It's a beautiful Victorian house, *meticulously* restored. ▪ *meticulously* careful research

– **me•tic•u•lous•ness** /məˈtɪkjələsnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

mé•tier *also* **me•tier** /ˈmɛˌtjeɪ/ *noun, pl* **-tiers** [*count*] *formal* : something that a person does very well ▪ After trying several careers, she found her true *métier* in computer science. ▪ Public speaking is not my *métier*. [=*forte*, *strength*]

metre *Brit spelling of* [2]METER, [3]METER

met•ric /ˈmɛtrɪk/ *adj*

1 : of, relating to, or based on the metric system ▪ The *metric* unit of energy is the "joule." ▪ a *metric* wrench [=a wrench that is sized according to the metric system]

2 : METRICAL ▪ *metric* patterns

met•ri•cal /ˈmɛtrɪkəl/ *adj* : of, relating to, or arranged in a rhythmic pattern of beats : of or relating poetic meter ▪ *metrical* patterns

– **met•ri•cal•ly** /ˈmɛtrɪkli/ *adv*

metric system *noun*

the metric system : a system of weights and measures that is based on the meter and on the kilogram

metric ton *noun, pl* **~ tons** [*count*] : a unit of mass and weight equal to one million grams

[1]met•ro /ˈmɛtroʊ/ *noun, pl* **-ros** [*count*] : an underground railway system in some cities : SUBWAY ▪ the Paris *Metro* ▪ We took the *metro* to the museum. = We went by *metro* to the museum.

[2]metro *adj, always used before a noun, US, informal* : of or relating to a large city and sometimes to the area around it ▪ The event was attended by people from all over the *metro* [=*metropolitan*] area.

met•ro•nome /ˈmɛtrəˌnoʊm/ *noun, pl* **-nomes** [*count*] : a device that makes a regular, repeated sound to show a musician how fast a piece of music should be played

– **met•ro•nom•ic** /ˌmɛtrəˈnɑːmɪk/ *adj*

me•trop•o•lis /məˈtrɑːpələs/ *noun, pl* **-lis•es** [*count*] : a very large or important city — usually singular ▪ a bustling *metropolis*

met•ro•pol•i•tan /ˌmɛtrəˈpɑːlətən/ *adj* : of or relating to a large city and the surrounding cities and towns ▪ the greater New York *metropolitan* area ▪ This is one of the best seafood restaurants in *metropolitan* Los Angeles. ▪ a *metropolitan* newspaper

met•tle /ˈmɛtl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : strength of spirit : ability to continue despite difficulties ▪ He ***proved/showed his mettle*** [=he proved/showed how tough he is] as a fighter tonight. ▪ The competition will ***test her mettle***

on your mettle *chiefly Brit* : making an effort to do as well as possible ▪ She'll have to be *on her mettle* [=at her best] to win this competition.

mew /ˈmjuː/ *noun, pl* **mews** [*count*] : MEOW ▪ a cat's *mew*

– **mew** /ˈmjuː/ *verb* **mews**; **mewed**; **mew•ing** [*no obj*] ▪ a *mewing* cat

mews /ˈmjuːz/ *noun, pl* **mews** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a street or area with buildings that were once horse stables but that have been made into houses ▪ a house in an elegant *mews* ▪ a ***mews house***

Mex•i•can /ˈmɛksɪkən/ *noun, pl* **-cans** [*count*]

1 : a person born, raised, or living in Mexico

2 : a person whose family is from Mexico

– **Mexican** *adj* ▪ *Mexican* food/music ▪ *Mexican* Spanish [=the Spanish spoken in Mexico]

Mexican jumping bean *noun, pl* **~ beans** [*count*] : JUMPING BEAN

Mexican wave *noun*

the Mexican wave *Brit* : [2]WAVE 7

mez•za•nine /ˈmɛzəˌniːn/ *noun, pl* **-nines** [*count*]

1 : a small floor that is between two main levels of a building and that is usually in the form of a balcony

2 *US* : the lowest balcony in a theater

mez•zo /ˈmɛtsoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-zos** [*count*] *music* : MEZZO-SOPRANO

mez•zo–so•pra•no /ˌmɛtsoʊsəˈprænoʊ, ˌmɛtsoʊsəˈprɑːnoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-nos** [*count*] *music* : a female singing voice that is higher than the contralto and lower than the soprano ▪ a singer with a beautiful *mezzo-soprano*; *also* : a female singer with such a voice

MFA *abbr* master of fine arts

mfg. *abbr* manufacturing

mg *abbr* milligram

mgmt. *abbr* management

mgr. *abbr* manager

MHz *abbr* megahertz

mi *or chiefly Brit* **me** /ˈmiː/ *noun* [*noncount*] *music* : the third note of a musical scale ▪ do, re, *mi*, fa, sol, la, ti

mi. *abbr* mile

MI *abbr* Michigan

MIA /ˌɛmˌaɪˈeɪ/ *noun, pl* **MIAs** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a soldier who was not found after a battle and who may or may not be dead : a soldier who is missing in action ▪ The fate of most *MIAs* in the war is still not known.

miaow *Brit spelling of* MEOW

mi•as•ma /maɪˈæzmə/ *noun, pl* **-mas** [*count*] *formal* + *literary* : a heavy cloud of something unpleasant or unhealthy — usually singular ▪ A *miasma* of smog settled over the city. ▪ a *miasma* of smoke ▪ a *miasma* of foul odors

mic /ˈmaɪk/ *noun, pl* **mics** [*count*] *US, informal* : MICROPHONE

mi•ca /ˈmaɪkə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a mineral that separates easily into thin sheets

mice *plural of* MOUSE

mick•ey /ˈmɪki/ *noun, pl* **-eys** [*count*] *informal* + *old-fashioned* : a drink of alcohol to which a drug has been added to cause the person who drinks it to become unconscious ▪ Someone tried to slip him a *mickey*. [=tried to knock him out by giving him a drugged drink]

take the mickey (out of someone) *Brit, informal* : to make fun of someone ▪ Did you mean what you said about me or were you just *taking the mickey*? [=*kidding*] ▪ We *took the mickey out of* her [=we teased her] about her new hairstyle.

Mickey Mouse *adj, informal* + *disapproving* : not deserving to be taken seriously : having little value or importance ▪ He took a lot of *Mickey Mouse* [=very easy] courses when he was in college. ▪ The company is just a *Mickey Mouse* operation.

micro- *combining form*

1 a : very small ▪ *micro*film ▪ *micro*computer **b** : making a sound louder or an image larger ▪ *micro*phone ▪ *micro*scope

2 : one millionth part of a (specified) unit ▪ *micro*second ▪ *micro*meter

mi•crobe /'maɪˌkroʊb/ *noun, pl* **-crobes** [*count*] : an extremely small living thing that can only be seen with a microscope : MICROORGANISM ▪ a disease-causing *microbe*
– **mi•cro•bi•al** /maɪ'kroʊbijəl/ *adj* ▪ *microbial* life/growth/contamination

mi•cro•bi•ol•o•gy /ˌmaɪkroʊbaɪ'ɑːlədʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a science that studies extremely small forms of life (such as bacteria and viruses) ▪ a degree in *microbiology*
– **mi•cro•bi•o•log•i•cal** /ˌmaɪkroʊˌbajə'lɑːdʒɪkəl/ *adj* ▪ *microbiological* contamination – **mi•cro•bi•ol•o•gist** /ˌmaɪkroʊbaɪ'ɑːlədʒɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*]

mi•cro•brew /'maɪkroʊˌbruː/ *noun, pl* **-brews** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a beer made by a microbrewery ▪ The restaurant serves several locally produced *microbrews*.

mi•cro•brew•ery /ˌmaɪkroʊ'bruːwəri/ *noun, pl* **-er•ies** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a small brewery that makes beer in small amounts

mi•cro•chip /'maɪkroʊˌʧɪp/ *noun, pl* **-chips** [*count*] *computers* : a group of tiny electronic circuits that work together on a very small piece of hard material (such as silicon) — called also *integrated circuit*

mi•cro•com•put•er /'maɪkroʊkəmˌpjuːtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a small computer; *especially* : PERSONAL COMPUTER

mi•cro•cosm /'maɪkrəˌkɑːzəm/ *noun, pl* **-cosms** [*count*] : something (such as a place or an event) that is seen as a small version of something much larger ▪ The village is a *microcosm* of the whole country. ▪ The game was a *microcosm* of the entire season. — compare MACROCOSM
in microcosm : in a greatly reduced size or form ▪ The model is designed to represent the town *in microcosm*.

mi•cro•eco•nom•ics /ˌmaɪkroʊˌɛkə'nɑːmɪks, ˌmaɪkroʊˌiːkə'nɑːmɪks/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the study of the economic decisions and actions of individual people, companies, etc. — compare MACROECONOMICS
– **microeconomic** *adj*

mi•cro•elec•tron•ics /ˌmaɪkrowɪˌlɛk'trɑːnɪks/ *noun, technical*
1 [*noncount*] : the design, production, or use of very small electronic devices and circuits ▪ a job in *microelectronics*
2 [*plural*] : very small electronic devices or circuits ▪ the manufacturing of *microelectronics*
– **mi•cro•elec•tron•ic** /ˌmaɪkrowɪˌlɛk'trɑːnɪk/ *adj* ▪ *microelectronic* chips/devices/technology

mi•cro•fiche /'maɪkroʊˌfiːʃ/ *noun, pl* **-fiches** : a sheet of film that has very small photographs of the pages of a newspaper, magazine, etc., which are viewed by using a special machine : a sheet of microfilm [*noncount*] Every issue of the magazine is available on *microfiche*. [*count*] He looked at *microfiches* of old magazines.

mi•cro•film /'maɪkrəˌfɪlm/ *noun, pl* **-films** : film on which very small photographs of the printed pages of a newspaper, magazine, etc., are stored [*noncount*] newspapers available on *microfilm* [*count*] studying newspaper *microfilms* from the early 1900s

mi•cro•man•age /ˌmaɪkroʊ'mænɪʤ/ *verb* **-ag•es**; **-aged**; **-ag•ing** [+ *obj*] *chiefly US* : to try to control or manage all the small parts of (something, such as an activity) in a way that is usually not wanted or that causes problems ▪ He *micromanaged* every detail of the budget.
– **mi•cro•man•age•ment** /ˌmaɪkroʊ'mænɪʤmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **mi•cro•man•ag•er** /ˌmaɪkroʊ'mænɪʤɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

[1]mi•crom•e•ter /maɪ'krɑːmətɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a device used for measuring very small distances — compare [2]MICROMETER

[2]mi•cro•me•ter (*US*) *or Brit* **mi•cro•me•tre** /'maɪkroʊˌmiːtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : one millionth of a meter — compare [1]MICROMETER

mi•cron /'maɪˌkrɑːn/ *noun, pl* **-crons** [*count*] : [2]MICROMETER

mi•cro•or•gan•ism /ˌmaɪkroʊ'oɚgəˌnɪzəm/ *noun, pl* **-isms** [*count*] *biology* : an extremely small living thing that can only be seen with a microscope

mi•cro•phone /'maɪkrəˌfoʊn/ *noun, pl* **-phones** [*count*] : a device into which people speak or sing in order to record their voices or to make them sound louder — called also (*informal*) *mike*

mi•cro•pro•ces•sor /ˌmaɪkroʊ'prɑːˌsɛsɚ, *Brit* ˌmaɪkrəʊ'prəʊˌsɛsə/ *noun, pl* **-sors** [*count*] *computers* : the device in a computer that manages information and controls what the computer does

mi•cro•scope /'maɪkrəˌskoʊp/ *noun, pl* **-scopes** [*count*] : a device used for producing a much larger view of very small objects so that they can be seen clearly ▪ Students viewed the crystals through/under/with a *microscope*. — see also ELECTRON MICROSCOPE
under a/the microscope : in a state of being watched very closely ▪ Celebrities can find it difficult (to be) living *under the microscope*. ▪ The business has recently been ***put under the microscope*** by federal investigators.

mi•cro•scop•ic /ˌmaɪkrə'skɑːpɪk/ *adj*
1 a : able to be seen only through a microscope : extremely small ▪ At this point, the embryo is a *microscopic* clump of only 100 cells. ▪ There is a *microscopic* crack in the diamond.
b : much smaller than what is usual, normal, or expected ▪ He has a *microscopic* attention span. ▪ He recorded every aspect of his trip in *microscopic* detail.
2 *always used before a noun* : done with a microscope ▪ a *microscopic* examination/analysis ▪ a *microscopic* study of plant tissues
– **mi•cro•scop•i•cal•ly** /ˌmaɪkrə'skɑːpɪkli/ *adv* ▪ examined/studied the tissue *microscopically* ▪ a *microscopically* thin fiber

mi•cro•sec•ond /'maɪkroʊˌsɛkənd/ *noun, pl* **-onds** [*count*]
1 : one millionth of a second
2 *informal* : a very short period of time ▪ She raised her hand a *microsecond* [=*second*] too late.

[1]mi•cro•wave /'maɪkroʊˌweɪv/ *noun, pl* **-waves** [*count*]
1 : MICROWAVE OVEN ▪ The apartment came with a *microwave*. — often used before another noun ▪ *microwave* cooking [=cooking using a microwave oven] ▪ *microwave* [=*microwavable*] popcorn ▪ a *microwave* dinner
2 *physics* : a very short wave of electromagnetic energy ▪ antennas for detecting *microwaves* ▪ *microwave* radiation

[2]microwave *verb* **-waves**; **-waved**; **-wav•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cook or heat (food) in a microwave oven ▪ *microwave* a bowl of soup
– **mi•cro•wav•able** *or* **mi•cro•wave•able** /ˌmaɪkrə'weɪvəbəl/ *adj* ▪ a *microwavable* pizza ▪ He heated up his soup in a *microwavable* bowl. [=a bowl that can be safely used in a microwave oven]

microwave oven *noun, pl* ~ **ovens** [*count*] : an oven in which food is cooked or heated quickly by very short waves of electromagnetic energy — called also *microwave*; see picture at KITCHEN

mid /'mɪd/ *adj, always used before a noun* : in or near the middle of something ▪ He's in his *mid* [=*middle*] twenties. ▪ the *mid* to late 1700s — often used in combination ▪ the *mid*-18th century ▪ He's in his *mid*-twenties. ▪ We'll be there in *mid*-August. ▪ He cut me off in *mid*-sentence. ▪ The ship was adrift in *mid*-ocean.

mid•af•ter•noon /ˌmɪdˌæftɚ'nuːn, *Brit* ˌmɪdˌɑːftə'nuːn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the middle part of the afternoon ▪ We hope to make it home by *midafternoon*. — often used before another noun ▪ a *midafternoon* snack

mid•air /'mɪd'eɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a region in the air not close to the ground ▪ The two planes collided in *midair*. ▪ We watched birds catching insects in *midair*. — often used before another noun ▪ a *midair* collision

Mi•das touch /'maɪdəs-/ *noun*
the Midas touch : the ability to make everything that you are involved with very successful ▪ an actor/businesswoman with *the Midas touch*

mid–Atlantic *also* **Mid–Atlantic** *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : of or relating to the region of the U.S. that includes all or some of the states between New York and South Carolina ▪ *mid-Atlantic* states/cities/beaches
2 : located in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean ▪ *mid-Atlantic* islands

mid•day /'mɪdˌdeɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the middle of the day : NOON ▪ They arrived around *midday*. — often used before another noun ▪ the *midday* sun ▪ the ***midday meal*** [=*lunch*]

[1]mid•dle /'mɪdl/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : equally distant from the ends or sides : halfway between two points ▪ He walked down the *middle* [=*center*] aisle. ▪ during the century's *middle* decades ▪ High temperatures today should be in the *middle* 80s.
2 : in a state or place between two things or people ▪ He grew

up as the *middle* child in a family with three children. [=he was the child born before the youngest and after the oldest] • Franklin D. Roosevelt's *middle* initial stood for "Delano."

[2]middle *noun, pl* **mid·dles** [*count*]

1 : a middle part, point, or position • He parts his hair in the *middle*. [=*center*] • A good essay will have a clear beginning, *middle*, and end. • He stood exactly in the *middle* of the room. • She opened the book to the *middle* and began to read. • The car stopped in the *middle* of the road. • The house should be finished by the *middle* of next summer. • The beginning and ending of the movie were good, but the *middle* was pretty boring. • Slice the banana right ***down the middle***. [=slice it into two equal parts] • We split the cost *down the middle*. [=we split the cost equally]

2 : the middle part of a person's body : WAIST • She put her arms around his *middle*. • He tied the sash around his *middle*.

in the middle : in a difficult or unpleasant position • She hated conflict and did not want to be put *in the middle*. • He was ***caught in the middle*** of his parents' divorce. = He was *caught in the middle* when his parents got divorced.

in the middle of **1** : while (something) is happening or being done : during (something) • The protesters interrupted her *in the middle of* her speech. • He kept waking up *in the middle of* the night. • The movie was so bad we walked out right *in the middle of* it. **2** : in the process of (doing something) • I was *in the middle of* (eating) dinner [=I was eating dinner] when the phone rang.

in the middle of nowhere : in a place that is far away from other people, houses, or cities • We got lost *in the middle of nowhere*.

middle age *noun* [*noncount*] : the period in a person's life from about age 40 to about age 60 • as our generation approaches *middle age* • The patient was in late *middle age*. • He feared the approach of *middle age*.

– **mid·dle–aged** /ˌmɪdl̩ˈeɪʤd/ *adj* • health problems common in *middle-aged* men and women • a book loved by the young, the old, and ***the middle-aged*** [=*middle-aged people*]

Middle Ages *noun*

the Middle Ages : the period of European history from about A.D. 500 to about 1500

Middle America *noun* [*noncount*] : the usually traditional or conservative people of the middle class in the U.S. • a politician who understands the needs of *Middle America*

– **Middle American** *noun, pl* ~ **-cans** [*count*] – **middle–American** *also* **Middle–American** *adj* • a typical *middle-American* home • *Middle-American* values

Middle Atlantic *adj, usually used before a noun* : MID-ATLANTIC 1 • the *Middle Atlantic* region

– **Middle Atlantic** *noun* [*noncount*] • moderate winters in the *Middle Atlantic*

mid·dle·brow /ˈmɪdl̩ˌbraʊ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : interested in art, literature, etc., that is not very serious and that is easy to understand • This book appeals to *middlebrow* readers. : relating to or intended for people who are interested in art, literature, etc., that is not very serious and that is easy to understand • people with *middlebrow* tastes • a *middlebrow* magazine/movie — compare HIGHBROW, LOWBROW

middle C *noun, pl* ~ **Cs** [*count, noncount*] *music* : the musical note C that is close to the center of a piano's keyboard • the note above *middle C*

middle class *noun, pl* ~ **classes** [*count*] : the social class that is between the upper class and the lower class and that includes mainly business and professional people, government officials, and skilled workers — compare LOWER CLASS, UPPER CLASS

– **middle–class** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • traditional *middle-class* values • a typical *middle-class* family

middle distance *noun, pl* ~ **-tances**

1 ***the middle distance*** : the area in a scene or view that is neither very close nor very far away : an area between the foreground and the background • As I looked out over the water, a small boat appeared in *the middle distance*.

2 [*count*] : a racing distance that is neither short nor long and that is usually between 800 to 1,500 meters — often used as *middle-distance* before another noun • a *middle-distance* runner/race/event

middle ear *noun* [*singular*] : the middle part of the ear that is inside the eardrum • fluid in the *middle ear* • a *middle ear* infection

Middle East *noun*

the Middle East : the countries of northern Africa and southwestern Asia that are on or near the eastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea : the Near East — compare FAR EAST

– **Middle Eastern** *adj* • *Middle Eastern* culture/food

– **Middle Easterner** *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*]

Middle English *noun* [*noncount*] : the English language between about 1100 and 1400 — compare OLD ENGLISH

middle finger *noun, pl* ~ **-gers** [*count*] : the long finger that is the middle one of the five fingers of the hand — see picture at HAND

middle ground *noun* : a position or set of opinions that is acceptable to many different people [*singular*] The judge of the case chose a *middle ground* between harshness and leniency. [*noncount*] Both sides in this debate need to do more to establish some *middle ground*.

mid·dle·man /ˈmɪdl̩ˌmæn/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-ˌmɛn/ [*count*]

1 : a person or company that buys goods from a producer and sells them to someone else • The Internet helps consumers save money by buying products directly from companies and eliminating/bypassing the *middleman*. • We've ***cut out the middleman*** and can reduce prices for our customers.

2 : a person who helps two people or groups to deal with and communicate with each other when they are not able or willing to do it themselves • He acted as the *middleman* in the talks between labor and management.

middle management *noun* [*noncount*] : the group of people in a company who are in charge of employees but are not involved in important decisions concerning the company • He was just promoted to *middle management*.

middle manager *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a person who works in middle management

middle name *noun, pl* ~ **names**

1 [*count*] : a name between a person's first name and family name • President John F. Kennedy's *middle name* was "Fitzgerald."

2 [*singular*] *informal* : a word that accurately describes a person's qualities • Patience is her *middle name*. [=she is a very patient person]

middle–of–the–road *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : supporting or following a course of action that is not extreme and that is acceptable to many different people • He took a *middle-of-the-road* approach to the problem. • *middle-of-the-road* [=*moderate*] voters/politicians

middle school *noun, pl* ~ **schools** [*count, noncount*]

1 *US* : a school for children that usually includes grades five to eight or six to eight — compare ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

2 *Brit* : a school for children between the ages of 8 and 12 or 9 and 13

mid·dle–sized /ˈmɪdl̩ˌsaɪzd/ *adj* : neither large nor small • a *middle-sized* [=*medium-sized*] business

mid·dle·weight /ˈmɪdl̩ˌweɪt/ *noun, pl* **-weights** [*count*] *sports* : a fighter who is in a class of boxers with an upper weight limit of 160 pounds (72 kilograms) : a boxer who is heavier than a lightweight and lighter than a heavyweight — often used before another noun • a *middleweight* boxer/champion • fighting for the *middleweight* title/crown

Middle West *noun*

the Middle West : the northern central part of the U.S. : the Midwest • the rich farmlands of *the Middle West*

– **Middle–Western** *adj* • *Middle-Western* states/cities/farms – **Middle–Western·er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

mid·dling /ˈmɪdlɪŋ/ *adj* : of average size or quality • a *middling* profit • a *middling* performance • The food was ***fair to middling***. [=just average; not especially good]

Mid·east /ˌmɪdˈiːst/ *noun*

the Mideast *US* : the Middle East • a trip to *the Mideast*

– **Mid·east·ern** /ˌmɪdˈiːstən/ *adj*

mid·field /ˈmɪdˌfiːld/ *noun, pl* **-fields**

1 [*noncount*] : the area of a playing field in sports like American football and soccer that is in the middle between the two goals • The team captains shook hands at *midfield*. • The ball went out of bounds near *midfield*.

2 [*count*] : the players on a soccer team who normally play in the midfield • They have a talented *midfield* this year.

– **mid·field·er** /ˈmɪdˌfiːldɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] • a talented *midfielder* [=a talented player who plays in the midfield]

midge /ˈmɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **midg·es** [*count*] : a very small flying insect that bites people and animals

[1]midg·et /ˈmɪʤət/ *noun, pl* **-ets** [*count*] *often offensive* : a very small person

[2]midget *adj, always used before a noun* : very small : much

smaller than usual or normal ▪ a *midget* race car ▪ a *midget* submarine for two people

mid•land /ˈmɪdlənd/ *noun, pl* **-lands** [*count*] : the central region of a country — usually plural ▪ I left the *midlands* for the coast. ▪ Birmingham is the major city in ***the Midlands*** (of England).

mid•life /ˈmɪdˈlaɪf/ *noun* [*noncount*] : MIDDLE AGE ▪ changes that occur at *midlife*

midlife crisis *noun, pl* ~ **crises** [*count*] : a time in middle age when a person feels a strong desire for change ▪ We knew he was going through a *midlife crisis* when he bought a new sports car.

mid•morn•ing /ˈmɪdˈmoɚnɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the middle of the morning : the time around 10 a.m. ▪ I'm usually hungry by *midmorning*. — often used before another noun ▪ a *midmorning* snack

mid•night /ˈmɪdˌnaɪt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the middle of the night : 12 o'clock at night ▪ Her parents wanted her home before *midnight*. ▪ The clock struck *midnight*. ▪ It was ***12 midnight*** when we arrived home. — often used before another noun ▪ a *midnight* snack ▪ at ***the midnight hour*** [=at midnight] ***burn the midnight oil*** see ¹BURN

mid•point /ˈmɪdˌpoɪnt/ *noun, pl* **-points** [*count*] : a point at the middle of something ▪ The crowd begins to leave after the *midpoint* of the final period. ▪ The team is in last place at the *midpoint* of the season. : a point halfway between two ends ▪ the *midpoint* between her knee and ankle ▪ The train stopped to refuel at the *midpoint* between New York and Chicago. ▪ the *midpoint* of one side of the rectangle

mid•riff /ˈmɪˌdrɪf/ *noun, pl* **-riffs** [*count*] : the area around a person's middle : the front of a person's body between the chest and the waist ▪ She wore a skimpy outfit that showed her bare *midriff*.

mid•sea•son /ˈmɪdˈsiːzn̩/ *noun, pl* **-sons** [*count*] : the middle of a season (such as a season of games in a sport or a season of television programs) ▪ He was traded to a better team at *midseason*. ▪ The network added several new shows to its schedule at *midseason*. — often used before another noun ▪ a *midseason* slump ▪ The game show was a *midseason* replacement for a show that was canceled.

mid•sec•tion /ˈmɪdˌsɛkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a middle section, part, or area ▪ Grassy plains used to cover large portions of America's *midsection*. ▪ the *midsection* of the boat/bridge; *especially* : the area around a person's middle ▪ He threw a hard punch to my *midsection*.

mid•ship•man /ˈmɪdˌʃɪpmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*]
1 : someone who is being trained to become an officer in the U.S. Navy
2 : an officer who is of the lowest rank in the British Navy

mid•size /ˈmɪdˌsaɪz/ *also* **mid•sized** /ˈmɪdˌsaɪzd/ *adj* : neither large nor small ▪ a *midsize* car ▪ The new service will appeal to large and *midsize* [=*medium-sized, middle-sized*] companies.

midst /ˈmɪdst/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 a : the middle area or part of something ▪ The river passes through the *midst* of the city. ▪ a bustling city ***in the midst of*** the desert **b** : the period of time when something is happening or being done ▪ We are ***in the midst of*** a terrible war. ▪ They were *in the midst of* remodeling their house. ▪ The region is currently *in the midst of* a terrible drought. ▪ We never gave up hope *in the midst of* our troubles.
2 — used to say that someone is among the people in a group ▪ We sensed a traitor ***in our midst***. [=we sensed that one of the people in our group was a traitor] ▪ He stood *in their midst* [=he stood among them], waiting for a reply. ▪ strangers *in their midst*

mid•stream /ˈmɪdˈstriːm/ *noun*
in midstream **1** : in the middle of a river or stream ▪ The boat struck a rock *in midstream*. **2** : while in the process of doing something ▪ She began talking about the party but changed topics *in midstream*. ▪ The government stopped the project *in midstream*. — see also *change horses in midstream* at ¹HORSE

mid•sum•mer /ˈmɪdˈsʌmɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the middle of summer ▪ The new product should be in stores by *midsummer*. — often used before another noun ▪ a hot *midsummer* night

mid•term /ˈmɪdˌtɚm/ *noun, pl* **-terms** *US*
1 a [*count*] : an examination given at the middle of a school term ▪ The students will be busy taking *midterms* next week. ▪ a *midterm* exam **b** [*noncount*] : the middle of a school term ▪ He dropped the course before *midterm*.
2 [*noncount*] : the middle of a term of office ▪ assessing the President's performance at *midterm* — often used before another noun ▪ *midterm* Congressional elections [=elections that occur halfway through a President's term of office]

mid•town /ˈmɪdˌtaʊn/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : the part of a city or town between its downtown and uptown ▪ Rents in *midtown* are very expensive. — often used before another noun ▪ a *midtown* hotel/bar/restaurant ▪ *midtown* Manhattan

¹mid•way /ˈmɪdˌweɪ/ *adv*
1 : in the middle between two places or points : at the halfway point ▪ We stopped for lunch about *midway* [=*halfway*] between New York and Philadelphia. ▪ You should begin reading at the paragraph that begins *midway* down the page.
2 : in the middle of an act, process, or period of time ▪ She was interrupted when she was *midway* [=*halfway*] through her presentation. ▪ They took the lead *midway* through the second period.
— **midway** *adj* ▪ at the *midway* point of our trip

²midway *noun, pl* **-ways** [*count*] *US* : an area at a fair, carnival, or amusement park for food stands, games, and rides ▪ We played every game on the *midway*.

mid•week /ˈmɪdˌwiːk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the middle of the week ▪ She has to finish the report by *midweek*.
— **midweek** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *midweek* deadline — **midweek** *adv* ▪ They'll be arriving *midweek*.

Mid•west /ˌmɪdˈwɛst/ *noun*
the Midwest : the northern central part of the U.S. : the Middle West ▪ the rich farmlands of *the Midwest* — often used before another noun ▪ my *Midwest* childhood ▪ *Midwest* cities
— **Mid•west•ern** /ˌmɪdˈwɛstɚn/ *adj* ▪ *Midwestern* states/cities/farms — **Mid•west•ern•er** /ˌmɪdˈwɛstɚnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

mid•wife /ˈmɪdˌwaɪf/ *noun, pl* **-wives** /-ˌwaɪvz/ [*count*] : a person (usually a woman) who helps a woman when she is giving birth to a child ▪ a trained and certified *midwife*
— **mid•wife•ry** /ˌmɪdˈwɪfəri/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She has been trained in *midwifery*. [=the work done by a midwife]

mid•win•ter /ˈmɪdˈwɪntɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the middle of winter ▪ the heavy snows and frigid temperatures of *midwinter* — often used before another noun ▪ a cold *midwinter* day ▪ deep *midwinter* snows

mid•year /ˈmɪdˌjiɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the middle of a year ▪ She expects to get a promotion at *midyear*. — often used before another noun ▪ *midyear* budget cuts ▪ a *midyear* performance review

mien /ˈmiːn/ *noun* [*singular*] *old-fashioned + literary* : a person's appearance or facial expression ▪ a kindly *mien* ▪ He has the *mien* of an ancient warrior.

miffed /ˈmɪft/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : slightly angry or annoyed ▪ They were (a bit) *miffed* [=*upset*] about what they considered to be unfair treatment. ▪ She was *miffed* at them for not inviting her to the party.

¹might /ˈmaɪt/ *verb* [*modal verb*]
1 — used to say that something is possible ▪ We *might* [=*may*] go if they ask us, but then again we *might* not. ▪ It *might* [=*could*] be true. ▪ *Might* it not be true? ▪ The test *might* include some questions about geography. ▪ There *might* be some difficulties ahead. ▪ She *might* get hundreds of responses to her survey. ▪ What you see *might* (well/very well) surprise you. ▪ I thought you *might* like this. ▪ She *might* have been the greatest actress of her generation. [=it's possible that she was the greatest actress of her generation] ▪ They *might* still succeed. ▪ I think he *might* be trying to cheat us. ▪ "Have they failed?" "They *might* have." = (*Brit*) "They *might* have done." ▪ If we hurry, we *might* get there before it rains. ▪ The movie *might* be better than you expect. ▪ Some people *might* have given up at that point, but not her. ▪ She's not as upset with them as *might* be expected. ▪ As you *might* or *might* not have heard, we've won! ▪ He *might* win and so *might* she.
2 — used to say that one thing is true but something else is also true ▪ He *might* [=*may*] be slow, but he does very good work. = Slow though he *might* be, he (still) does very good work. [=although he's slow, he does very good work] ▪ It *might* be cold outside, but it's still a nice day. ▪ She *might* have been a great actress, but she was a terrible parent.
3 — used to talk about a possible condition that does not or did not actually exist ▪ If you were older, you *might* understand. ▪ If she had been given a chance, she *might* have been a great actress.

4 *formal* — used as the past tense of *may* ▪ He asked if he *might* [=*could*] leave. [=he asked, "May I leave?"] ▪ He gave his life so that others *might* [=*could*] live.

5 a — used in speech to ask a question or make a request in a polite way ▪ *Might* [=*may*] I ask who is calling? [=who is calling?] ▪ "Do you think I *might* possibly borrow your pen?" "Of course you may!" **b** — used to make a polite suggestion ▪ You *might* [=*may*] want to consider leaving early. ▪ It *might* be wise to proceed cautiously. **c** — used to politely say something about someone or something ▪ ***Might I just say*** how pleased I am to be here. ▪ This has been, ***if I might say so***, one of the happiest days of my life. ▪ He is her husband and, ***I might add***, one of her biggest fans.

6 — used to say that you are annoyed by something that was or was not done ▪ You *might* [=*could*] at least apologize! ▪ If you weren't coming, you *might* (at least) have told me in advance!

7 — used to indicate what is or was expected ▪ You *might* [=*would*] think that he would be more grateful after all I've done for him. ▪ I *might* [=*should*] have known you wouldn't keep your promise!

8 — used in speech when asking a question about someone or something that surprises or annoys you ▪ "I have a request to make." "And what *might* that be?" [=what is your request?] ▪ And who *might* you be? [=who are you?]

[2]might *noun* [*noncount*] : power to do something : force or strength ▪ an impressive display of military *might* ▪ the legal *might* of the government ▪ He swung the bat ***with all his might*** [=he swung the bat as hard as he could]

might makes right *or* ***might is right*** — used to say that people who have power are able to do what they want because no one can stop them

might•i•ly /ˈmaɪtəli/ *adv*

1 : to a great degree : very much ▪ They contributed *mightily* to the cause. ▪ She struggled *mightily* to read his handwriting.

2 : with great force or strength ▪ The soldiers fought *mightily* before finally surrendering. ▪ He shouted *mightily*.

mightn't /ˈmaɪtn̩t/ — used as a contraction of *might not* ▪ People *mightn't* always agree with his decisions, but they do think he's fair.

might've /ˈmaɪtəv/ — used as a contraction of *might have* ▪ I think we *might've* had different goals. ▪ She did what any other smart person *might've* done in that situation.

[1]mighty /ˈmaɪti/ *adj* **might•i•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : having or showing great strength or power ▪ The barbarians faced a *mighty* army. ▪ the decline of a *mighty* empire ▪ the *mighty* Mississippi ▪ a *mighty* oak ▪ *mighty* deeds ▪ With a *mighty* leap, he jumped across the stream.

2 : very great ▪ A *mighty* famine devastated the land. ▪ It took a *mighty* effort to get everything done on time.

high and mighty see [1]HIGH

[2]mighty *adv, chiefly US, informal* : to a great degree : VERY ▪ Your father and I are *mighty* proud of you. ▪ That was a *mighty* tasty dinner. ▪ He made the offer *mighty* appealing. ▪ She has some *mighty* important decisions to make. ▪ It sure was *mighty* cold last night. ▪ We're *mighty* glad to be here.

mi•graine /ˈmaɪˌgreɪn, *Brit* ˈmiːˌgreɪn/ *noun, pl* **-graines** : a very bad headache [*count*] He suffers from *migraines*. ▪ a *migraine* headache/attack [*noncount*] He suffers from *migraine*.

mi•grant /ˈmaɪgrənt/ *noun, pl* **-grants** [*count*]

1 : a person who goes from one place to another especially to find work ▪ *migrants* in search of work on farms ▪ *migrant* (farm) workers — compare EMIGRANT, IMMIGRANT

2 : a bird or animal that moves from one area to another at different times of the year ▪ Not all birds are *migrants*. ▪ *migrant* birds

mi•grate /ˈmaɪˌgreɪt/ *verb* **-grates**; **-grat•ed**; **-grat•ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to move from one country or place to live or work in another ▪ He *migrates* from New York to Florida each winter. ▪ Thousands of workers *migrate* to this area each summer. — compare EMIGRATE, IMMIGRATE

2 *of a bird or animal* : to move from one area to another at different times of the year ▪ The whales *migrate* between their feeding ground in the north and their breeding ground in the Caribbean. ▪ They followed the *migrating* herds of buffalo across the plains. ▪ *migrating* birds

– **mi•gra•tion** /maɪˈgreɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*noncount*] an expert on bird *migration* [*count*] mass *migrations* of workers ▪ fall *migrations* to breeding grounds – **mi•gra•tion•al** /maɪˈgreɪʃənl̩/ *adj* ▪ *migrational* movements

mi•gra•to•ry /ˈmaɪgrəˌtori, *Brit* maɪˈgreɪtəri/ *adj* : moving from one place to another at different times of the year : migrating regularly ▪ *migratory* birds ▪ *migratory* [=(more commonly) *migrant*] workers

[1]mike /ˈmaɪk/ *noun, pl* **mikes** [*count*] *informal* : MICROPHONE ▪ The announcer was wearing a *mike*.

[2]mike *verb* **mikes**; **miked**; **mik•ing** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to put a microphone on (someone) ▪ The announcer was *miked* (up) (for sound).

mil *or* **mill** /ˈmɪl/ *noun, pl* **mil** *or* **mill** [*count*] *US slang* : a million dollars ▪ He has a couple *mil* in the bank.

mild /ˈmajəld/ *adj* **mild•er**; **-est** [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : gentle in nature or behavior ▪ a *mild* young man ▪ He has a *mild* manner/disposition. ▪ He was a ***mild-mannered*** man who rarely became angry.

2 a : not strong in action or effect ▪ a *mild* drug/detergent ▪ *mild* [=*gentle*] soap **b** : not strong or harsh in taste ▪ *mild* flavors ▪ *mild* cheese **c** : not strongly felt ▪ He has only a *mild* [=*slight*] interest in politics. ▪ They had a *mild* disagreement.

3 a : not harsh or severe ▪ She has a *mild* case of the flu. ▪ a *mild* headache/fever ▪ *mild* pain ▪ He suffered a *mild* concussion/heart attack. ▪ a *mild* reprimand, not a stern one **b** : not too hot or too cold : pleasantly warm ▪ a *mild* [=*temperate*] climate ▪ a *mild* winter's day ▪ We've been having a very *mild* winter.

– **mild•ly** *adv* ▪ He's *mildly* [=*slightly, somewhat*] interested in politics. ▪ It's a *mildly* amusing comedy. ▪ He has been *mildly* criticized by a few former colleagues. ▪ She was upset, ***to put it mildly***. [=she was extremely upset] ▪ He is, *to put it mildly*, a demanding boss. [=he is a very demanding boss] – **mild•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *mildness* of the weather

mil•dew /ˈmɪlˌduː, *Brit* ˈmɪlˌdjuː/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a usually white substance that grows on the surface of things in wet, warm conditions ▪ The basement's damp walls were covered with *mildew*.

– **mil•dewed** /ˈmɪlˌduːd, *Brit* ˈmɪlˌdjuːd/ *adj* ▪ *mildewed* walls – **mil•dewy** /ˈmɪlˌduːwi, *Brit* ˈmɪlˌdjuːwi/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *mildewy* basement

mile /ˈmajəl/ *noun, pl* **miles**

1 [*count*] : a unit of measurement equal to 5,280 feet (about 1,609 meters) ▪ How many *miles* is it from here to New York? = How far is it from here to New York in *miles*? ▪ We passed *mile* after *mile* of beautiful scenery as we drove through the country. ▪ We traveled over *miles* of dirt road. ▪ He lives about a half (a) *mile* from here. ▪ The car was traveling at 70 *miles* per/an hour. — often used figuratively ▪ He won the election by a *mile*. [=he won the election by a very large margin] ▪ He missed the target by a *mile*. [=he completely missed the target] ▪ Her smile was a *mile* wide. ▪ You can see the stain (from) a *mile* away. = (*Brit*) You can see the stain a *mile* off. ▪ She was talking ***a mile a minute***. [=very fast] ▪ The twin's resemblance ***stood/stuck out a mile***. [=the resemblance was very obvious] — see also NAUTICAL MILE

2 *miles* [*plural*] : a great distance ▪ They walked for *miles*. ▪ There was no one (to be seen) for *miles* around. ▪ We were *miles* from home. ▪ We still have *miles* to go. ▪ The beach stretched on ***for miles and miles***. ▪ He lives by himself in a cabin ***miles from nowhere/anywhere***. [=very far from other people and places] — often used figuratively ▪ He was *miles* ahead of the other students in his class. ▪ Politically he's now *miles* away from his original position. ▪ She feels as if her sister is *miles* beyond her in education. ▪ They're still *miles* from an agreement. — see also MILES

3 [*singular*] : a race that is a mile long ▪ the first man to run a four-minute *mile* [=the first man to run a mile in less than four minutes]

go the extra mile : to do more than you are required to do ▪ She's always willing to *go the extra mile* to help a friend.

mile•age /ˈmaɪlɪʤ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 a : distance in miles ▪ What's the *mileage* from here to New York? [=how many miles is it from here to New York?] **b** : distance traveled in miles by a vehicle ▪ My old car has a lot of *mileage* on it. = My old car has racked up a lot of *mileage*. [=it has been driven for a large number of miles since it was new] ▪ a car with high/low *mileage* ▪ The car's rental rate includes unlimited *mileage*. [=the rate does not increase no matter how far the car is driven] ▪ The company pays me a ***mileage allowance*** [=an amount of money paid for every mile traveled] when I have to travel for work.

2 : the average number of miles a vehicle will travel on a gal-

lon of gasoline ▪ My new car gets much better *mileage* than my old one did. ▪ good/bad *mileage* ▪ fuel/gas *mileage*

3 a : benefit or use over a period of time ▪ The company has gotten a lot of *mileage* out of a simple idea. ▪ The movie gets a lot of *mileage* out of an old story. **b :** useful ability ▪ He's not the pitcher he once was, but he still has a lot of *mileage* left in him. [=he is still able to pitch well; his career as a pitcher is far from finished]

mile•om•e•ter *or* **mi•lom•e•ter** /maɪˈlɑːmətɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] *Brit* : ODOMETER

mile•post /ˈmajəlˌpoʊst/ *noun, pl* **-posts** [*count*] *US*

1 : a post by the side of a road that shows the distance in miles to a specified place

2 : MILESTONE 2 ▪ We've reached a new *milepost* in the field of genetic research.

mil•er /ˈmaɪlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a runner in a race that is a mile long

miles /ˈmajəlz/ *adv, chiefly Brit, informal* : very much ▪ This one is *miles* worse/better than that one.

mile•stone /ˈmajəlˌstoʊn/ *noun, pl* **-stones** [*count*]

1 : a stone by the side of a road that shows the distance in miles to a specified place

2 : an important point in the progress or development of something : a very important event or advance — usually + *in* ▪ The birth of their first child was a (major) *milestone in* their marriage. ▪ The study marks an important *milestone in* our understanding of the disease.

mi•lieu /milˈjuː/ *noun, pl* **-lieus** *or* **-lieux** /milˈjuːz/ [*count*] *formal* : the physical or social setting in which people live or in which something happens or develops ▪ He and his wife come from different cultural *milieus*. [=*backgrounds, environments*]

mil•i•tant /ˈmɪlətənt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : having or showing a desire or willingness to use strong, extreme, and sometimes forceful methods to achieve something ▪ *militant* protesters ▪ an angry and *militant* speech ▪ *militant* foreign policy

– **mil•i•tan•cy** /ˈmɪlətənsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *militancy* of the protesters – **militant** *noun, pl* **-tants** [*count*] ▪ a protest by angry *militants* – **mil•i•tant•ly** *adv*

mil•i•ta•rism /ˈmɪlətəˌrɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the opinions or actions of people who believe that a country should use military methods, forces, etc., to gain power and to achieve its goals ▪ The administration has been criticized for the *militarism* of its foreign policy.

– **mil•i•ta•rist** /ˈmɪlətərɪst/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ a *militarist* regime – **militarist** *noun, pl* **-rists** [*count*] ▪ a government dominated by *militarists* – **mil•i•ta•ris•tic** /ˌmɪləˈtərɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ a *militaristic* foreign policy

mil•i•ta•rize *also Brit* **mil•i•ta•rise** /ˈmɪlətəˌraɪz/ *verb* **-riz•es; -rized; -riz•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to put weapons and military forces in (an area) — usually used as *(be) militarized* ▪ The area *is* now fully *militarized*. ▪ a *militarized zone* — opposite DEMILITARIZE

2 : to give a military quality or character to (something) ▪ *militarize* a country's foreign policy ▪ an increasingly *militarized* society

– **mil•i•ta•ri•za•tion** *also Brit* **mil•i•ta•ri•sa•tion** /ˌmɪlətərəˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌmɪlətəˌraɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]mil•i•tary /ˈmɪləˌteri/ *adj*

1 a : of or relating to soldiers or the armed forces (such as the army, navy, marines, and air force) ▪ *military* discipline/life ▪ *military* glory ▪ *military* aircraft/officers/history/personnel/operations ▪ a *military* base/camp/hospital ▪ He is being tried in a *military* court rather than in a civilian court. ▪ He has had a long *military* career. ▪ He tried to avoid *military* service. [=he tried to avoid becoming a member of the army, navy, etc.] **b :** of or relating to the army ▪ *military* and naval affairs

2 : controlled or supported by armed forces ▪ a *military* government/dictatorship/regime ▪ a *military* coup

– **mil•i•tar•i•ly** /ˌmɪləˈterəli/ *adv* ▪ a *militarily* superior force

[2]military *noun* [*plural*] : members of the armed forces : military people ▪ There were many *military* present but only a few civilians.

the military : the armed forces ▪ He has had a long career in *the military*. ▪ The policy is opposed by *the military*. ▪ *The military* oppose/opposes the policy. [=military leaders oppose the policy]

military police *noun* [*plural*] : an organized part of a military force (such as an army) that acts as the police for that force

– **military policeman** *noun, pl* ~ **-men** [*count*]

mil•i•tate /ˈmɪləˌteɪt/ *verb* **-tates; -tat•ed; -tat•ing**

militate against [*phrasal verb*] ***militate against (something)*** *formal* : to make (something) unlikely to happen : to prevent (something) from happening ▪ His inexperience *militates against* his getting an early promotion. ▪ factors *militating against* success

mi•li•tia /məˈlɪʃə/ *noun, pl* **-tias** [*count*] : a group of people who are not part of the armed forces of a country but are trained like soldiers

– **mi•li•tia•man** /məˈlɪʃəmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*]

[1]milk /ˈmɪlk/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : a white liquid produced by a woman to feed her baby or by female animals to feed their young ▪ mother's/breast *milk* ▪ cheese made from sheep's *milk*; *especially* : milk from cows or goats that is used as food by people ▪ a glass of low-fat/whole *milk* ▪ serving *milk* and cookies ▪ pasteurized/homogenized *milk* ▪ whole *milk* [=milk from which no fat has been removed] — see also CONDENSED MILK, EVAPORATED MILK, MALTED MILK, SKIM MILK

2 : a white liquid produced by a plant ▪ coconut *milk*

cry over spilled/spilt milk see [1]CRY

land of milk and honey see [1]LAND

the milk of human kindness *literary* : kind feelings or behavior toward other people ▪ He was filled with *the milk of human kindness*. [=he was filled with kindness; he was very kind]

[2]milk *verb* **milks; milked; milk•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to get milk from (an animal) ▪ *milk* a cow

2 : to use (something or someone) in a way that helps you unfairly ▪ They *milked* [=*exploited*] their advantage for all it was worth. ▪ greedy landlords *milking* their tenants of all their money — see also *milk (someone or something) dry* at [1]DRY

– **milk•er** /ˈmɪlkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a mechanical *milker* [=a machine used for milking cows]

milk chocolate *noun* [*count, noncount*] : a kind of chocolate that is made with milk — compare DARK CHOCOLATE

milk float *noun, pl* ~ **floats** [*count*] *Brit* : a small electric vehicle used to deliver milk to people's homes

milk•maid /ˈmɪlkˌmeɪd/ *noun, pl* **-maids** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : DAIRYMAID

milk•man /ˈmɪlkˌmæn/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-ˌmɛn/ [*count*] : a man who sells or delivers milk

milk of mag•ne•sia /-mægˈniːʒə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a thick, white liquid that contains magnesium and is used as a medicine for stomach problems (such as indigestion)

milk•shake /ˈmɪlkˌʃeɪk/ *noun, pl* **-shakes** [*count*] : a thick drink made of milk, a flavoring syrup, and often ice cream ▪ a chocolate/vanilla *milkshake* — called also *shake*

milk•sop /ˈmɪlkˌsɑːp/ *noun, pl* **-sops** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a weak boy or man

milk tooth *noun, pl* ~ **teeth** [*count*] : BABY TOOTH

milk•weed /ˈmɪlkˌwiːd/ *noun, pl* **-weeds** [*count, noncount*] : a type of North American plant that has white juice

milky /ˈmɪlki/ *adj* **milk•i•er; -est**

1 a : looking or tasting like milk ▪ cheese with a light *milky* taste ▪ *milky* (white) skin **b :** not clear ▪ a *milky* [=*cloudy*] liquid ▪ eyes covered by a *milky* glaze

2 : containing a large amount of milk ▪ *milky* coffee

– **milk•i•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

Milky Way *noun*

the Milky Way **1 :** a broad band of light that can be seen in the night sky and that is caused by the light of a very large number of faint stars **2 :** the galaxy in which we live that contains the stars that make up the Milky Way ▪ Our solar system is in *the Milky Way* (galaxy).

[1]mill /ˈmɪl/ *noun, pl* **mills** [*count*]

1 a : a building with machinery for grinding grain into flour **b :** a machine for grinding grain

2 : a small machine for grinding or crushing pepper, coffee, etc. ▪ a food/pepper *mill*

3 : a building in which a particular product is made : FACTORY ▪ a paper/cotton/textile/lumber/steel *mill* ▪ *mill* workers — see also SAWMILL

4 : something that is compared to a factory because it produces things in large numbers or in a mechanical way ▪ Some critics have described the school as a diploma *mill*. [=a school where students can obtain diplomas very easily] ▪ The rumor *mill* has been churning out stories about their marriage. [=there are many rumors about their marriage]

grist for/to your/the mill see GRIST

through the mill *chiefly Brit* : through a very difficult experience ▪ They've been (put) *through the mill* in the months since their father died.

[2]mill *verb* **mills; milled; mill•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to produce (something) in a mill especially by grinding, crushing, or cutting it ▪ *milled* wheat/lumber

2 [*no obj*] *of a group of people* : to walk around in a general area without any particular aim or purpose ▪ The crowd was *milling* outside the exit. — usually + *around* or (*chiefly Brit*) *about* ▪ People were just *milling around* while they waited.

[3]mill *variant spelling of* MIL

mil•len•ni•um /məˈlɛnijəm/ *noun, pl* **-nia** /-nijə/ *or* **-ni-ums** [*count*]

1 : a period of 1,000 years ▪ The book describes the changes that have occurred in the landscape over many *millennia*.

2 : a period of a thousand years counted from the beginning of the Christian era ▪ The year 2000 was celebrated as the beginning of the third *millennium*. ▪ We had a party to celebrate ***the millennium***. [=the beginning of the millennium]

– **mil•len•ni•al** /məˈlɛnijəl/ *adj* ▪ *millennial* celebrations

mill•er /ˈmɪlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who works in or is in charge of a flour mill

mil•let /ˈmɪlət/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of grass that is grown for its seeds which are used as food; *also* : the seeds of millet

milli- *combining form* : one thousandth part of something ▪ *milli*meter

mil•li•gram *also Brit* **mil•li•gramme** /ˈmɪləˌgræm/ *noun, pl* **-grams** [*count*] : a weight equal to 1/1000 gram

mil•li•li•ter (*US*) *or Brit* **mil•li•li•tre** /ˈmɪləˌliːtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a measure of capacity equal to 1/1000 liter

mil•li•me•ter (*US*) *or Brit* **mil•li•me•tre** /ˈmɪləˌmiːtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a length equal to 1/1000 meter

mil•li•ner /ˈmɪlənɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ners** [*count*] : a person who designs, makes, or sells women's hats

mil•li•nery /ˈmɪləˌneri/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : women's hats ▪ a shop that sells *millinery*

2 : the business of making or selling women's hats

mil•lion /ˈmɪljən/ *noun, pl* **mil•lions** *or* **million** [*count*]

1 : the number 1,000,000 ▪ a/one/two *million* (of them) ▪ a hundred *million* = 100 *million* ▪ several *million* (of them) = (less commonly) several *millions* (of them) ▪ hundreds of *millions* (of them) ▪ a *million* and one [=1,000,001] ▪ a *million* and a half = 1.5 *million* [=1,500,000] ▪ The company is worth *millions*. [=worth millions of dollars, pounds, euros, etc.] ▪ a *million* dollars

2 : a very large amount or number ▪ I've heard that excuse a *million* times before. [=many, many times before] — often plural ▪ The drug could save *millions* of lives. ▪ ***millions and millions*** of people

look/feel like a million dollars/bucks *informal* : to look/feel very good ▪ She *looks like a million bucks* since she lost all that weight.

never/not in a million years see YEAR

one in a million *informal* : a person or thing that is very unusual, special, or admired ▪ Thanks for all the help you've given me. You're *one in a million*.

thanks a million *informal* : thank you very much ▪ Hey, *thanks a million* for your help. ▪ (*humorous*) "I'll let you wash the dishes today." "*Thanks a million*."

– **mil•lionth** /ˈmɪljənθ/ *adj* ▪ our (one) *millionth* customer ▪ This is the *millionth* time I've seen this show. [=I have seen this show many times] – **millionth** *noun, pl* **-lionths** [*count*] ▪ one *millionth* [=one of a million equal parts] of a second

mil•lion•aire /ˌmɪljəˈneɚ/ *noun, pl* **-aires** [*count*] : a rich person who has at least a million dollars, pounds, etc.

mil•lion•air•ess /ˌmɪljəˈnerəs/ *noun, pl* **-ess•es** [*count*] : a rich woman who has at least a million dollars, pounds, etc. : a woman who is a millionaire

mil•li•pede /ˈmɪləˌpiːd/ *noun, pl* **-pedes** [*count*] : a small creature that is like an insect and that has a long, thin body with many legs

mil•li•sec•ond /ˈmɪləˌsɛkənd/ *noun, pl* **-onds** [*count*] : one thousandth of a second

mill•pond /ˈmɪlˌpɑːnd/ *noun, pl* **-ponds** [*count*] : a pond that supplies water for running a mill

mill•stone /ˈmɪlˌstoʊn/ *noun, pl* **-stones** [*count*]

1 : either one of two large, round stones used for grinding grain in a mill

2 : a problem or responsibility that does not go away and that makes it difficult or impossible to do or achieve something ▪ College loans can quickly become a *millstone* for students. ▪ The scandal has become a political *millstone*. ▪ The scandal has been a ***millstone around her neck***.

milometer *variant spelling of* MILEOMETER

[1]mime /ˈmaɪm/ *noun, pl* **mimes**

1 [*noncount*] : a form of entertainment in which a performer plays a character or tells a story without words by using body movements and facial expressions ▪ an actor with a gift for *mime* ▪ a performance done in *mime*

2 [*count*] **a** : a performance done without speaking : a performance using mime **b** : a performer who uses mime ▪ an actor who is a talented *mime*

[2]mime *verb* **mimes; mimed; mim•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make the movements of someone who is doing (something) without actually doing it ▪ He *mimed* playing a guitar. ▪ She *mimed* picking up the phone and dialing a number. ▪ He *mimed* the words to the song. [=he moved his mouth like someone singing the song but he did not actually sing the words]

[1]mim•ic /ˈmɪmɪk/ *verb* **-ics; -icked; -ick•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to copy (someone or someone's behavior or speech) especially for humor ▪ He can *mimic* [=*imitate*] the way his father talks perfectly. ▪ He *mimicked* her accent. ▪ She has a talent for *mimicking* famous actresses.

2 : to create the appearance or effect of (something) ▪ software that can *mimic* [=*simulate*] human thought ▪ The lamp *mimics* natural sunlight.

3 : to naturally look like (something) ▪ a butterfly that *mimics* a leaf

[2]mimic *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] : a person who copies the behavior or speech of other people : a person who mimics other people ▪ She's a talented *mimic*; *also* : an animal that naturally looks like something else

mim•ic•ry /ˈmɪmɪkri/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the activity or art of copying the behavior or speech of other people : the activity or art of mimicking other people ▪ a talent for *mimicry*

mi•mo•sa /məˈmoʊsə/ *noun, pl* **-sas**

1 [*count, noncount*] : a tropical tree or shrub that has small white or pink flowers that are shaped like balls

2 [*count*] *US* : an alcoholic drink made with champagne and orange juice

min•a•ret /ˌmɪnəˈrɛt/ *noun, pl* **-rets** [*count*] : a tall, thin tower of a mosque with a balcony from which the people are called to prayer

[1]mince /ˈmɪns/ *verb* **minc•es; minced; minc•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to cut (food) into very small pieces ▪ The recipe says that you should *mince* the onions. ▪ *minced* parsley/carrots/garlic ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) *minced* beef [=(*US*) ground beef, hamburger]

2 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to walk with quick, short steps in a way that does not seem natural and that is often meant to be funny ▪ The comedian *minced* across the stage. = The comedian walked with *mincing* steps across the stage.

not mince (your) words *or US* ***mince no words*** : to speak in a very direct and honest way without worrying that you may be offending someone ▪ He *doesn't mince words* about the proposed law, which he considers "unconstitutional" and "idiotic." ▪ She *minces no words* in stating her opinions.

– **minc•ing•ly** /ˈmɪnsɪŋli/ *adv* ▪ walked *mincingly* across the stage

[2]mince *noun* [*noncount*]

1 *Brit* : HAMBURGER 2 ▪ The recipe uses a pound of *mince*. [=(*US*) *ground beef*]; *also* : ground meat of a specified kind ▪ lamb *mince*

2 : MINCEMEAT 2 ▪ a *mince* pie

mince•meat /ˈmɪnsˌmiːt/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : meat that has been cut into very small pieces : minced meat

2 : a mixture of raisins, apples, spices, etc., that is used especially in pies ▪ *mincemeat* pie

make mincemeat out of *informal* : to destroy, ruin, or defeat (someone or something) in a very thorough and complete way ▪ Last year's champions have been *making mincemeat of* the competition again this year.

[1]mind /ˈmaɪnd/ *noun, pl* **minds**

1 : the part of a person that thinks, reasons, feels, and remembers [*count*] He read great literature to develop/cultivate his *mind*. ▪ It's important to keep your *mind* active as you grow older. ▪ He went for a walk to help clear his *mind*. ▪ the mysteries of the human *mind* ▪ My *mind* is always open to new ideas. ▪ You can't argue with him. His *mind* is closed. ▪

I can't concentrate: my *mind* is always wandering and I can't keep it focused on anything. ▪ Let me get this clear/straight in my *mind* [=let me understand this clearly]: are you saying that she was lying to me all along? ▪ I can't get that image out of my *mind*. = I can't stop seeing that image in my *mind*. = That image is stuck in my *mind*. ▪ The smell of pine sends my *mind* back to childhood. ▪ The sound of her voice jerked my *mind* back to the present. ▪ My *mind* tells me it can't work, but my heart tells me I want to try it. ▪ We must appeal to and win (over) the ***hearts and minds*** of the people. [=the emotions and the reasoning of the people] ▪ His ***conscious mind*** had forgotten the incident, but the memory of it was still buried somewhere in his ***subconscious/unconscious mind*** ▪ There's absolutely ***no doubt in my mind*** about his guilt. [=I am sure that he is guilty] ▪ I know you're disappointed by their decision, but you should just ***put that out of your mind*** [=stop thinking about that] and go back to work. ▪ I'll handle the schedule. Just *put it out of your mind*. [=don't think or worry about it] ▪ Is there something ***on your mind***? [=is there something troubling you?; are you worried or bothered about something?] ▪ Why don't you just say what's *on your mind*? [=why don't you just say what you are thinking?] ▪ I wish there were some way I could ***ease your (troubled) mind*** = I wish there were some way I could ***set/put your mind at ease/rest*** [=could make you stop worrying] ▪ These problems have been ***preying/weighing on his mind*** [=he has been worrying about these problems] ▪ The safety of the children should be ***foremost/uppermost in all our minds*** now. [=we should all be thinking most about the safety of the children now] ▪ The idea that we might lose was ***the furthest thing from my mind*** [=I never thought that we might lose] ▪ I have no intention of quitting my job. ***Nothing could be further from my mind*** ▪ She says that getting married again is ***the last thing on her mind*** right now. [=she is not thinking at all about getting married again] ▪ What was ***going/running through your mind*** [=what were you thinking] when you agreed to do this? ▪ His name ***slips/escapes my mind*** at the moment. [=I can't remember his name] ✧ If something (such as an illness) is ***all in your/the mind***, you are imagining it. ▪ He thinks he's very ill, but it's *all in his mind*. ✧ If ***your mind is set on*** something or you ***have your mind set on*** something, you are very determined to do or to get something. ▪ *Her mind is set on* becoming a doctor. = She *has her mind set on* becoming a doctor. [*noncount*] It's important to be healthy in both body and *mind*. ▪ He's in a bad/good ***state of mind*** [=he's in a bad/good mood] ▪ Installing a security system in your home will give you greater ***peace of mind*** [=a feeling of being safe or protected] — see also FRAME OF MIND, PRESENCE OF MIND

2 [*count*] — used to describe the way a person thinks or the intelligence of a person ▪ She has a brilliant *mind*. ▪ He has an inquisitive/inquiring *mind*. ▪ He's an evil man with a warped/twisted *mind*. ▪ He's recognized as having one of the sharpest *minds* [=*intellects*] in this field.

3 — used in phrases that describe someone as mentally ill or crazy ▪ There's something wrong with him. He's ***not in his right mind*** [=he is mentally ill] ▪ No one *in their right mind* would try such a stunt. = Who *in their right mind* would try such a stunt? ▪ (*law*) She claims that her father was not ***of sound mind*** when he changed his will. = She claims her father was ***of unsound mind*** [=was not sane or rational] — usually used informally in an exaggerated way ▪ What a ridiculous idea! You must be ***out of your mind*** [=*crazy*] to believe that. ▪ I was (going) ***out of my mind with worry*** [=I was extremely worried] ▪ I feel like I'm ***losing my mind*** = I feel like I'm ***going out of my mind*** [=I feel like I'm going crazy] ▪ That noise is ***driving me out of my mind*** [=driving me crazy] ✧ The phrase ***out of your mind*** is also used informally to make a statement stronger. ▪ I was bored *out of my mind*. [=I was very bored] ▪ She was frightened *out of her mind*.

4 [*count*] : a very intelligent person ▪ Many of the world's greatest *minds* in physics will be attending the convention.

5 [*noncount*] : a particular way of thinking about a situation ▪ Everyone at the meeting was ***of like mind*** [=everyone agreed] about how to proceed. ▪ She is ***of the same mind*** as me. [=she agrees with me] ▪ We're all ***of one mind*** about him [=we all agree about him]: he's the one we want. ▪ ***To/In my mind*** that's wrong.

6 [*noncount*] : attention that is given to a person or thing ▪ Try to relax and ***take/get/keep your mind off*** your problems. [=stop thinking about your problems] ▪ I'm finding it hard to ***keep my mind on*** my work. [=to concentrate on my work] ▪ After finishing work on the remodeling project, she was able to ***turn her mind to*** [=direct her attention to; work on] other matters. ▪ ***Don't pay him any mind*** [=don't pay attention to him; ignore him] ▪ He kept talking but she ***paid him no mind*** ▪ You shouldn't ***pay any/much mind to*** what he says.

a meeting of (the) minds see MEETING

at/in the back of your mind see ¹BACK

blow someone's mind *informal* : to strongly affect someone's mind with shock, confusion, etc. : to amaze or overwhelm someone's mind ▪ The music really *blew my mind*. ▪ The thought of all she's accomplished at such a young age just *blows my mind*. — see also MIND-BLOWING

call/bring (something) to mind : to cause (something) to be remembered or thought of ▪ Seeing her again *brought to mind* the happy times we spent together in college.

change someone's mind : to cause someone to change an opinion or decision ▪ I tried to convince her, but I couldn't *change her mind*.

change your mind : to change your decision or opinion about something ▪ He wasn't going to come, but at the last minute he *changed his mind*. ▪ I tried to convince her, but she wouldn't *change her mind*.

come/spring/leap to mind : to be remembered or thought of ▪ What *comes to mind* when you hear his name? ▪ I didn't mean to offend you. I just said the first thing that ***came to/into my mind***

concentrate the/your mind see ¹CONCENTRATE

cross someone's mind see ²CROSS

enter your mind see ENTER

give someone a piece of your mind : to speak to someone in an angry way ▪ He stopped making so much noise after I went over there and *gave him a piece of my mind*.

have a good mind *or* ***have half a mind*** ✧ If you *have a good mind* or *have half a mind* to do something, you have a feeling that you want to do it, especially because you are angry or annoyed, but you will probably not do it. ▪ I *have a good mind* to go over there and tell him to be quiet. ▪ I *have half a mind* to tell her what I really think of her.

have a mind like a sieve see ¹SIEVE

have a mind of your own : to have your own ideas and make your own choices about what should be done ▪ Her parents want her to go to college, but she *has a mind of her own* and she insists on trying to become an actress. — often used figuratively ▪ I can't get the camera to work right. It seems to *have a mind of its own*.

have (someone or something) in mind : to be thinking of (someone or something): such as **a** : to be thinking of choosing (someone) for a job, position, etc. ▪ They *have you in mind* for the job. [=they are thinking of giving the job to you] **b** : to be thinking of doing (something) ▪ "I'd like to do something special for our anniversary." "What sort of thing did you *have in mind*?" ▪ He ***had it in mind*** [=*intended*] to leave the business to his daughter.

in mind : in your thoughts ▪ We designed this product with people like you *in mind*. [=we designed it for people like you] ▪ He went into the bar with trouble *in mind*. [=intending to cause trouble] ▪ Before you disregard his advice, ***keep/bear in mind*** [=*remember*] that he is regarded as one of the leading experts in this field. ▪ We have a limited amount of money to spend, and we need to *keep that in mind* [=think of that; consider that] while we're planning our vacation.

in your mind's eye see ¹EYE

know your own mind see ¹KNOW

make up your mind : to make a decision about something ▪ I can't *make up my mind* [=*decide*] where to take my vacation. ▪ He had *made up his mind* not to go. ▪ He's thinking about going, but he still hasn't *made up his mind* (about it). ▪ He's not going. ***His mind is made up*** [=he has made a decision and will not change it] ▪ I can't decide for you. You'll have to ***make up your own mind***

mind over matter — used to describe a situation in which someone is able to control a physical condition, problem, etc., by using the mind ▪ His ability to keep going even when he is tired is a simple question of *mind over matter*.

of two minds (*US*) *or Brit* ***in two minds*** : not decided or certain about something : having two opinions or ideas about something ▪ I can't make up my mind where to take my vacation: I'm *of two minds* about where to go. ▪ I'm *of two minds* about (hiring) him: he seems well-qualified, but he doesn't have much experience.

open your mind see ²OPEN

put (someone) in mind of (something) : to cause (someone) to remember or think of (something) ▪ What hap-

pened to you yesterday *puts me in mind of* [=reminds me of] what happened to me a year ago.

put/set your mind to (something) : to give your attention to (something) and try very hard to do it ▪ You'd be surprised at what you can accomplish when you *put your mind to* it. ▪ We can solve this problem if we *put our minds to* it.

read someone's mind : to know exactly what someone is thinking ▪ "I think we should go out to a movie tonight." "You *read my mind*. I was thinking the same thing." ▪ It's as if you could *read my mind*. ▪ He claims that he has the ability to ***read minds*** — see also MIND READER

speak your mind : to say what you think : to state your opinion ▪ If you don't agree with him, don't be afraid to *speak your mind*.

take a load/weight off your mind : to make you stop worrying about something ▪ Hearing that she's safe has really *taken a load off my mind*!

[2]mind *verb* **minds; minded; minding**

1 *not used in progressive tenses* : to be bothered by (something) : to object to or dislike (something) [+ *obj*] I *mind* it greatly [=it bothers me very much] when people are rude. ▪ I don't *mind* the rain. = I don't *mind* if it rains. [=the rain doesn't bother me] ▪ I don't *mind* making dinner. [=I am willing to make dinner; making dinner does not bother me] ▪ I wouldn't *mind* having a piece of pie myself. [=I would like to have a piece of pie too] [*no obj*] It was raining, but I didn't *mind*. ▪ Our flight was delayed— ***not that I minded*** [=I was not bothered by it], since I was late getting to the airport myself. ▪ I'd like another cupcake, ***if you don't mind*** [=if it is all right with you]

2 [+ *obj*] : to care about or worry about (something or someone) ▪ They don't seem to *mind* where they sit. = They seem not to *mind* where they sit. ▪ I don't *mind* very much what happens. ▪ "Why is he so angry?" "Oh, ***don't mind him*** He's always complaining about something." ▪ *Don't mind me* [=don't worry about or pay attention to me]: I'll be all right.

3 [+ *obj*] **a** — used to make a polite request ▪ Do you *mind* me/my sitting here? [=would you be bothered if I sat here?] ▪ Do you *mind* if I smoke? = Would you *mind* if I smoked? ▪ Would you *mind* doing me a small favor? ▪ I'm tired. Would you *mind* leaving a little early? = Would you *mind* it if we left a little early? **b** — used in phrases with *if* when you have said something that might bother or upset someone ▪ How old are you, ***if you don't mind my/me asking***? [=may I ask how old you are?; would you be offended if I asked how old you are?] ▪ You look a bit old for this job, ***if you don't mind my/me saying so*** [=if I may say so] **c** — used in informal phrases with *I* ▪ "Would you like another cup of coffee?" "Thank you: ***I don't mind if I do***" [=yes, I'd like another cup] ▪ I was shocked by the news, ***I don't mind telling you*** [=I must say/admit that I was shocked by the news] ▪ ***I don't mind saying/admitting*** that I was very disappointed by her decision. **d** — used in informal phrases that show anger or annoyance ▪ "That old woman's a real pain!" "***Do you MIND***? That's my mother you're talking about!" ▪ "Let me help you with that." "I'll do it myself, ***if you don't mind***"

4 [+ *obj*] *US* : to do what you are told to do by (someone) : OBEY ▪ *Mind* your parents!

5 [+ *obj*] : to take care of (something or someone) : to watch or be in charge of (something or someone) ▪ Who's going to *mind* the office while you're away? ▪ Who's *minding* the children? — see also MIND THE STORE (below)

6 [+ *obj*] **a** : to be careful about (something) ▪ You'd better *mind* what you say. ▪ ***Mind your tongue/language*** [=stop saying offensive or improper things] ▪ His mother told him to ***mind his manners*** [=to behave in a polite and proper way] ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) *Mind* how you behave when we get there. — see also *mind your p's and q's* at [1]P **b** *chiefly Brit* — used to tell someone to be aware of something that could be a problem or danger ▪ The wind is very strong: *mind* your hat! ▪ *Mind* the broken glass! [=watch out for the broken glass] ▪ *Mind* the missing step! **c** *chiefly Brit* — used to tell someone to be sure to do something or to be careful to prevent something from happening ▪ *Mind* [=*make sure*] you've finished the project before he gets back! ▪ *Mind* he doesn't lose his ticket!

mind out [*phrasal verb*] *Brit* — used to tell someone to be careful ▪ *Mind out*—one of the steps is missing! ▪ There's a car coming! *Mind out*! [=*look out, watch out*]

mind the store (*US*) *or Brit* ***mind the shop*** : to be in charge of a place when the person who is usually in charge is not there ▪ Who's *minding the store* while the boss is away?

mind you *informal* — used in speech to give stress to a statement that you are making so that a preceding or following statement will not be misunderstood ▪ His advice wasn't very helpful. I'm not criticizing him, *mind you*. ▪ *Mind you*, I'm not criticizing him, but the truth is that his advice wasn't very helpful. — often used in British English without *you* ▪ His advice wasn't very helpful. I'm not criticizing him, *mind*!

mind your own business see BUSINESS

mind your step see [1]STEP

never mind **1** — used to tell someone not to worry about something ▪ *Never mind* your mistake: it wasn't serious. ▪ So you made a little mistake! *Never mind* (about that): it wasn't serious. ▪ Do you know where my keys are? Oh, *never mind*. Here they are. **2** — used to refer to something that is even less likely or possible than the thing previously mentioned ▪ I can barely understand it, *never mind* [=*let alone, much less*] explain it.

never you mind *informal* — used to tell someone that you will not be answering a question ▪ "Just how old are you anyway?" "*Never you mind*!"

mind–al·ter·ing /ˈmaɪndˌɑːltərɪŋ/ *adj* : causing changes to the mind or to behavior ▪ *mind-altering* drugs

mind–bend·ing /ˈmaɪndˌbɛndɪŋ/ *adj*

1 : causing changes to the mind or to behavior : MIND-ALTERING ▪ *mind-bending* drugs

2 [*more ~; most ~*] *informal* : very confusing, exciting, etc. : MIND-BLOWING ▪ a *mind-bending* experience ▪ *mind-bending* special effects

– **mind–bend·ing·ly** *adv*

mind–blow·ing /ˈmaɪndˌblowɪŋ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *informal* : very confusing, exciting, or shocking ▪ The power of her performance was positively *mind-blowing*. ▪ a *mind-blowing* [=*mind-boggling*] number of possibilities — see also *blow someone's mind* at [1]MIND

– **mind–blow·ing·ly** *adv*

mind–bog·gling /ˈmaɪndˌbɑːglɪŋ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *informal* : having a very powerful or overwhelming effect on the mind ▪ a *mind-boggling* [=*stunning*] performance : amazingly or confusingly large, great, etc. ▪ a *mind-boggling* array of options ▪ He received a *mind-boggling* $200 million in pay. ▪ The sheer vastness of space is *mind-boggling*.

– **mind–bog·gling·ly** *adv* ▪ *mind-bogglingly* large numbers

mind·ed /ˈmaɪndəd/ *adj*

1 a : having a particular kind of mind — used in combination ▪ narrow-*minded* ▪ open-*minded* ▪ closed-*minded* **b** : interested in or concerned about a particular subject — used in combination ▪ bargain-*minded* customers ▪ She's very health-*minded*. [=she is very concerned about doing things that promote good health]

2 *Brit, formal* : having a desire or intention *to do* something ▪ The government is *minded* [=*inclined, disposed*] *to grant* their request.

mind·er /ˈmaɪndɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : BODYGUARD ▪ The reporters were kept away by the celebrity's *minders*. — see also NETMINDER

mind·ful /ˈmaɪndfəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : aware of something that may be important — often + *of* ▪ Investors should be *mindful of* current political trends. — often + *that* ▪ Investors should be *mindful that* political trends may influence the market.

– **mind·ful·ly** /ˈmaɪndfəli/ *adv* – **mind·ful·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

mind·less /ˈmaɪndləs/ *adj*

1 a : having or showing no ability to think, feel, or respond ▪ a *mindless* killer ▪ a *mindless* bureaucracy **b** : showing no use of intelligence or thought ▪ *mindless* devotion to fashion ▪ The article was a *mindless* piece of nonsense. : having no purpose ▪ The movie has been criticized for its *mindless* violence. ▪ a *mindless* waste of time **c** : requiring very little attention or thought ▪ *mindless* activity/work

2 : not aware *of* something : not mindful *of* something ▪ He seemed to be completely *mindless of* the danger he was facing. ▪ She was *mindless of* her appearance.

– **mind·less·ly** *adv* ▪ a *mindlessly* violent movie – **mind·less·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

mind–numb·ing /ˈmaɪndˌnʌmɪŋ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *informal* : very dull or boring ▪ *mind-numbing* work

– **mind–numb·ing·ly** *adv* ▪ *mind-numbingly* dull

mind reader *noun, pl* **~ -ers** [*count*] : someone who is able to know another person's thoughts without being told what they are : someone who is able to read minds ▪ How was I

supposed to know what you were thinking? I'm no *mind reader*. ▪ "I think we should eat out tonight." "You must be a *mind reader*: that's just what I was thinking myself!"

– **mind reading** *noun* [*noncount*]

mind–set /ˈmaɪndˌsɛt/ *noun, pl* **-sets** [*count*] : a particular way of thinking : a person's attitude or set of opinions about something ▪ politicians trying to understand the *mind-set* of voters ▪ a conservative/liberal *mind-set*

[1]mine /ˈmaɪn/ *pronoun*

1 : that which belongs to me : my one : my ones ▪ The book is *mine*. [=it is my book] ▪ Those books are *mine*. [=those are my books] ▪ *Mine* is the book on the left. [=my book is the one on the left] ▪ His eyes are blue and *mine* are brown. ▪ a former professor/friend ***of mine*** [=one of my former professors/friends]

2 *Brit, informal* : my home : my place ▪ Let's go back to *mine* for a drink.

[2]mine *noun, pl* **mines** [*count*]

1 : a pit or tunnel from which minerals (such as coal, gold, diamonds, etc.) are taken — see also GOLD MINE, STRIP MINE

2 : a bomb that is placed in the ground or in water and that explodes when it is touched — see also LAND MINE

3 : a rich source of something (such as information) ▪ He has proven to be a *mine* [=*gold mine*] of information. [=he has provided a large amount of information]

[3]mine *verb* **mines**; **mined**; **min·ing**

1 a : to dig a mine in order to find and take away coal, gold, diamonds, etc. — usually + *for* [*no obj*] The area was soon filled with prospectors who were *mining for* gold. [+ *obj*] Prospectors *mined* the region *for* diamonds. **b** [+ *obj*] : to find and take away (coal, gold, diamonds, etc.) from a mine ▪ Local people were hired to *mine* the gold.

2 [+ *obj*] : to search for something valuable in (something) — usually + *for* ▪ Police have been *mining* the tapes *for* information. [=they have been listening to the tapes in order to get information from them]

3 [+ *obj*] : to put mines (sense 2) in or under (something) ▪ The enemy had *mined* the harbor. ▪ The road was *mined*.

mine·field /ˈmaɪnˌfiːld/ *noun, pl* **-fields** [*count*]

1 : an area of land or water that contains mines (sense 2)

2 : something that has many dangers or risks ▪ This issue is a political *minefield*.

min·er /ˈmaɪnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who works in a mine ▪ coal/gold *miners*

min·er·al /ˈmɪnərəl/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*]

1 : a substance (such as quartz, coal, petroleum, salt, etc.) that is naturally formed under the ground

2 : a chemical substance (such as iron or zinc) that occurs naturally in certain foods and that is important for good health ▪ an adequate supply of vitamins and *minerals*

min·er·al·o·gy /ˌmɪnəˈrælədʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the scientific study of minerals

– **min·er·al·og·i·cal** /ˌmɪnərəˈlɑːdʒɪkəl/ *adj* – **min·er·al·o·gist** /ˌmɪnəˈrælədʒɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*]

mineral water *noun, pl* ~ **-ters** [*count, noncount*] : water that contains mineral salts and gases (such as carbon dioxide) ▪ a glass of *mineral water*

min·e·stro·ne /ˌmɪnəˈstroʊni/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a thick Italian soup that is usually made with beans, vegetables, and pasta

mine·sweep·er /ˈmaɪnˌswiːpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a ship designed for removing or destroying mines

min·gle /ˈmɪŋgəl/ *verb* **min·gles**; **min·gled**; **min·gling**

1 : to combine or bring together two or more things [+ *obj*] The story *mingles* fact and/with fiction. [*no obj*] Several flavors *mingle* in the stew. ▪ It's a story in which fact *mingles* with fiction.

2 [*no obj*] : to move around during a party, meeting, etc., and talk informally with different people ▪ The host was too busy to *mingle* during the party. — often + *with* ▪ The speaker stayed to *mingle with* the audience after the lecture. — see also INTERMINGLE

mingy /ˈmɪndʒi/ *adj* **min·gi·er**; **-est** *chiefly Brit, informal*

1 : not liking to spend money : STINGY ▪ a *mingy* uncle

2 : not large enough ▪ a *mingy* portion of food

– **min·gi·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

mini /ˈmɪni/ *noun, pl* **minis** [*count*] : a very short skirt : MINISKIRT

mini- *combining form* : smaller or shorter than usual or normal : MINIATURE ▪ *mini*bike ▪ *mini*skirt

[1]min·i·a·ture /ˈmɪnijəˌtʃuɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : very small : TINY ▪ a collection of *miniature* books ▪ a *miniature* tea set ▪ a *miniature* camera ▪ The little boy looks like a *miniature* version of his father. ▪ a *miniature* poodle [=a poodle that is bred to be smaller than normal; a poodle breed that is smaller than the normal breed]

[2]miniature *noun, pl* **-tures** [*count*] : a very small sculpture, portrait, or painting ▪ She collects porcelain *miniatures*.

in miniature : in a very small form : on a very small scale ▪ The model depicts the project *in miniature*. ▪ The little boy looks like his father *in miniature*.

miniature golf *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : a golf game played with a putter on a small course that has various obstacles at each hole — called also (*US*) *minigolf*, (*Brit*) *crazy golf*

min·i·a·tur·ize *also Brit* **min·i·a·tur·ise** /ˈmɪnijəʧəˌraɪz/ *verb* **-iz·es**; **-ized**; **-iz·ing** [+ *obj*] : to design or make (something) in a very small size ▪ Technology has made it possible to *miniaturize* electronic circuits. ▪ a *miniaturized* radio

– **min·i·a·tur·i·za·tion** *also Brit* **min·i·a·tur·i·sa·tion** /ˌmɪnijəˌʧurəˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

mini·bar /ˈmɪniˌbɑɚ/ *noun, pl* **-bars** [*count*] : a small refrigerator in a hotel room that has drinks inside it for guests

mini·bike /ˈmɪniˌbaɪk/ *noun, pl* **-bikes** [*count*] *US* : a small motorcycle

mini·bus /ˈmɪniˌbʌs/ *noun, pl* **-bus·es** [*count*] : a small bus or van

mini·cab /ˈmɪniˌkæb/ *noun, pl* **-cabs** [*count*] *Brit* : a taxi that only picks up customers who call by telephone

mini·golf /ˈmɪniˌgɑːlf/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : MINIATURE GOLF

min·im /ˈmɪnəm/ *noun, pl* **-ims** [*count*] *Brit* : HALF NOTE

minima *plural of* [1]MINIMUM

min·i·mal /ˈmɪnəməl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very small or slight in size or amount ▪ The storm caused *minimal* damage. ▪ The costs were *minimal*. ▪ areas at *minimal* risk for flooding ▪ They made the repairs with *minimal* disruption [=with the least possible disruption] to the schedule.

– **min·i·mal·ly** *adv* ▪ a *minimally* adequate supply ▪ a *minimally* useful tool

min·i·mal·ist /ˈmɪnəməlɪst/ *adj* : of, relating to, or following a style in art, literature, or music that is very simple and uses a small number of colors, parts, materials, etc. ▪ *minimalist* art ▪ a *minimalist* artist

– **min·i·mal·ism** /ˈmɪnəməˌlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a student of *minimalism* – **minimalist** *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ artists who are *minimalists*

min·i·mize *or Brit* **min·i·mise** /ˈmɪnəˌmaɪz/ *verb* **-miz·es**; **-mized**; **-miz·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (something bad or not wanted) as small as possible ▪ We need to *minimize* the chance of error. ▪ The company will work to *minimize* costs.

2 : to treat or describe (something) as smaller or less important than it is ▪ I don't want to *minimize* the contributions he has made to the company. ▪ During the interview, she *minimized* her weaknesses and emphasized her strengths.

3 *computers* : to make (a program's window) change to a very small form that takes almost no room on a computer's screen ▪ Please *minimize* all open windows. — opposite MAXIMIZE

– **min·i·mi·za·tion** *or Brit* **min·i·mi·sa·tion** /ˌmɪnəməˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌmɪnəˌmaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]min·i·mum /ˈmɪnəməm/ *noun, pl* **min·i·mums** *or technical* **min·i·ma** /ˈmɪnəmə/ [*count*] : the lowest number or amount that is possible or allowed — usually singular ▪ Ten years is the *minimum* needed. = We'll need 10 years ***at a/the minimum***. [=we'll need at least 10 years] ▪ We need to keep expenses ***to a (bare) minimum***. [=we need to keep expenses as low as possible] — often + *of* ▪ Refrigerate the dough for a *minimum of* two hours. [=for at least two hours] ▪ She will serve a *minimum of* 10 years in jail. — opposite MAXIMUM

[2]minimum *adj, always used before a noun* : least or lowest possible in amount or degree ▪ They made the repairs with *minimum* [=*minimal*] disruption to the schedule. ▪ What are the *minimum* requirements for the job? ▪ *minimum* height/weight ▪ The *minimum* sentence for her crime is 10 years. ▪ a ***minimum security prison*** [=a prison in which prisoners are allowed more freedom than in most other prisons because they are not considered dangerous or likely to escape] — opposite MAXIMUM

[3]minimum *adv* : at the least ▪ She will serve 10 years *minimum*. [=the least amount of time she will serve is 10 years]

minimum wage *noun* [*singular*] : an amount of money

that is the least amount of money per hour that workers must be paid according to the law ▪ Congress will vote on a bill to raise the *minimum wage*.

min•ing /ˈmaɪnɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the process or business of digging in mines to obtain minerals, metals, jewels, etc. ▪ He works in *mining*. ▪ the *mining* industry

min•ion /ˈmɪnjən/ *noun, pl* **-ions** [*count*] : someone who is not powerful or important and who obeys the orders of a powerful leader or boss ▪ one of the boss's *minions*

mini•se•ries /ˈmɪniˌsiriz/ *noun, pl* **miniseries** [*count*] : a story on television that is shown in two or more parts on different days

mini•skirt /ˈmɪniˌskɚt/ *noun, pl* **-skirts** [*count*] : a very short skirt — called also *mini*; see color picture on page C14

[1]min•is•ter /ˈmɪnəstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*]

1 : a person whose job involves leading church services, performing religious ceremonies (such as marriages), and providing spiritual or religious guidance to other people : a member of the clergy in some Protestant churches

2 : an official who heads a government department or a major section of a department in some countries (such as Britain) ▪ (*Brit*) the *Minister* of Defence [=(*US*) the Secretary of Defense]— see also PRIME MINISTER

3 : a person who represents his or her own government while living in a foreign country

[2]minister *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter•ing**

minister to [*phrasal verb*] ***minister to (someone or something)*** : to help or care for (someone or something) ▪ She devoted herself to *ministering to* the poor and sick. ▪ The nurse *ministered to* his wounds.

min•is•te•ri•al /ˌmɪnəˈstirijəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to a government minister ▪ She holds a *ministerial* office. ▪ *ministerial* meetings/duties ▪ They function in a *ministerial* capacity in the embassy.

min•is•tra•tions /ˌmɪnəˈstreɪʃənz/ *noun* [*plural*] *formal* + *humorous* : actions done to help someone ▪ She recovered quickly despite the *ministrations* of her doctor.

min•is•try /ˈmɪnəstri/ *noun, pl* **-tries**

1 a ***the ministry*** : religious leaders as a group : ministers as a group ▪ a member of *the ministry* **b** : the office, duties, or work of a religious minister [*count*] — usually singular ▪ His *ministry* is among the city's immigrants. [*noncount*] She learned a lot during her first year of *ministry*. ▪ When did he enter the *ministry*? [=when did he start doing religious work?; when did he become a minister?]

2 [*count*] : a government department or the building in which it is located ▪ (*Brit*) the *Ministry* of Defence [=(*US*) Department of Defense]

mini•van /ˈmɪniˌvæn/ *noun, pl* **-vans** [*count*] : a small van — called also (*Brit*) *people carrier*, (*Brit*) *people mover*; see picture at CAR

mink /ˈmɪŋk/ *noun, pl* **mink** *or* **minks**

1 [*count*] : a small animal that has a thin body and soft, dark brown fur

2 a [*noncount*] : the skin and fur of a mink used for making clothing ▪ a coat made of *mink* ▪ a *mink* coat



mink

b [*count*] : a piece of clothing (such as a coat) made of mink ▪ women wearing expensive jewelry and *minks*

min•now /ˈmɪnoʊ/ *noun, pl* **min•nows** *also* **minnow** [*count*] : a very small fish that is often used as bait to catch larger fish

[1]mi•nor /ˈmaɪnɚ/ *adj*

1 a : not very important or valuable ▪ a *minor* artist/author/celebrity ▪ Her role in the project was *minor*. ▪ a *minor* component/part ▪ I'm not worried about *minor* details. ▪ a *minor* news story ▪ *minor* characters ▪ Doctors described her recovery as a ***minor miracle***. [=her health was very bad and doctors were not sure if she would recover] **b** *always used before a noun* : small in number, quantity, or extent ▪ The grant covered only a *minor* part of the cost.

2 : not very serious : not causing much trouble or damage ▪ a *minor* illness/injury/setback ▪ The delay will be *minor*. ▪ a very *minor* annoyance/accident ▪ a *minor* earthquake ▪ *minor* errors/mistakes ▪ He suffered a *minor* heart attack.

3 *music* **a** : having semitones between the second and third, the fifth and sixth, and sometimes the seventh and eighth notes in a scale ▪ a *minor* scale **b** : based on a minor scale ▪ a *minor* key — compare [1]MAJOR 3

4 *always used before a noun* : not yet old enough to have the rights of an adult ▪ He has *minor* children living in the house.

[2]minor *noun, pl* **-nors** [*count*]

1 : a person who is not yet old enough to have the rights of an adult ▪ families with children who are still *minors* ▪ The nightclub was shut down for selling alcohol to a *minor*.

2 *US* : a second subject studied by a college or university student in addition to a main subject ▪ She majored in chemistry with a *minor* in biology. — compare [2]MAJOR 2

the minors *US, informal* : the minor leagues of baseball ▪ He spent his entire career in *the minors*.

[3]minor *verb* **-nors**; **-nored**; **-nor•ing**

minor in [*phrasal verb*] ***minor in (something)*** *US* : to have (a specified second subject of study) in addition to your main subject ▪ In college, she majored in chemistry and *minored in* biology.

mi•nor•i•ty /məˈnorəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*singular*] : a number or amount that is less than half of a total ▪ The proposal is opposed by a *minority* of voters.

2 [*singular*] : the group that is the smaller part of a larger group ▪ The Republicans/Democrats are now the *minority* in the Senate. ▪ Opponents of the new law appear to be ***in the minority***. [=there are fewer people who oppose the new law than who support it]

3 [*count*] **a** : a group of people who are different from the larger group in a country, area, etc., in some way (such as race or religion) ▪ the country's ethnic *minorities* ▪ The group is becoming an influential *minority* in the community. **b** *chiefly US* : a member of such a group — usually plural ▪ The college encouraged women and *minorities* to apply. ▪ The company is making an effort to hire more *minorities*.

4 [*noncount*] *law* : the time or period when a person is not yet old enough to have the full rights of an adult — compare MAJORITY 3

– minority *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ Republicans/Democrats are the *minority* party in the Senate. ▪ a *minority* group

minority leader *noun, pl* **~ -ers** [*count*] : the leader of the political party that has fewer members than the leading party in the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives ▪ the House/Senate *minority leader* — compare MAJORITY LEADER

minor league *noun, pl* **~ leagues** [*count*] : a professional baseball league that is not one of the major leagues — usually plural ▪ He spent many years in the *minor leagues* before being called up to the major leagues; *also* : a league of lesser importance in another sport (such as hockey or football) — compare MAJOR LEAGUES

– minor–league *adj* ▪ *minor-league* baseball — sometimes used figuratively ▪ These problems are *minor-league*. [=these problems are not serious] **– minor lea•guer** *noun, pl* **~ -guers** [*count*] ▪ He was a *minor leaguer* before he was drafted into the majors. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The police decided he was a *minor leaguer* in the drug trafficking world.

min•strel /ˈmɪnstrəl/ *noun, pl* **-strels** [*count*]

1 : a musical entertainer in the Middle Ages ▪ a wandering *minstrel*

2 *US* : a member of a group of entertainers who performed black American songs and jokes usually with blackened faces ▪ a *minstrel* show ✧ Minstrel shows were popular in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

[1]mint /ˈmɪnt/ *noun, pl* **mints**

1 [*noncount*] : an herb that has a strong pleasant smell and taste and that is used in medicine and food — see color picture on page C6

2 [*count*] : a piece of candy that tastes like mint

– compare [2]MINT

– minty /ˈmɪnti/ *adj* **mint•i•er**; **-est** ▪ a *minty* flavor

[2]mint *noun, pl* **mints**

1 [*count*] : a place where coins are made — usually used with *the* ▪ coins shipped directly from *the mint*

2 [*singular*] *informal* : a large amount of money ▪ He made a *mint* [=he earned a large sum of money] in real estate. ▪ Her family is worth a *mint*. [=is very wealthy]

in mint condition ✧ If something is *in mint condition*, it is in perfect condition, just as if it were new. ▪ He kept the car *in mint condition*.

– compare [1]MINT

[3]mint *verb* **mints**; **mint•ed**; **mint•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (coins) out of metal ▪ coins that were *minted* before 1965 ▪ We *mint* coins out of copper.

min•u•et /ˌmɪnjəˈwɛt/ *noun, pl* **-ets** [*count*]
1 : a slow, graceful dance that was popular in the 17th and 18th centuries▪ danced a *minuet*
2 : the music for a minuet▪ The orchestra played a *minuet*.

[1]mi•nus /ˈmaɪnəs/ *prep*
1 — used to indicate that one number or amount is being subtracted from another▪ 10 *minus* 5 equals/is 5. ▪ We earned 600 dollars *minus* travel expenses. [=the amount we earned was less than 600 dollars because we had to pay for travel expenses]
2 *informal* : not having (something) : WITHOUT▪ He left the restaurant *minus* his hat. ▪ a fruit that looks like a peach, *minus* the fuzz ▪ The lower 48 states are all the United States *minus* Alaska and Hawaii. [=not counting or including Alaska and Hawaii]
plus or minus see [3]PLUS

[2]minus *noun, pl* **-nus•es** [*count*]
1 *informal* : a problem or disadvantage▪ She decided that the pluses of owning a home outweighed the *minuses*. ▪ Some employers see a lack of experience as a real *minus*.
2 *mathematics* : MINUS SIGN▪ Put the *minus* to the left of the number.

[3]minus *adj*
1 *always used before a noun* : having a value that is below zero : NEGATIVE▪ a *minus* quantity ▪ *minus* 3 ▪ The temperature was *minus* 10. [=10 degrees below zero] — opposite [1]PLUS 1
2 — used following a grade (such as A, B, or C) to show that the work is slightly worse than the letter by itself would indicate▪ I got a B *minus* on my English exam. ▪ The teacher said I could bring the C *minus* up to a C if I studied more. — opposite [1]PLUS 2
on the minus side — used to describe the less appealing or attractive part of something▪ *On the minus side*, the job doesn't pay well, but on the plus side, the work is easy.

mi•nus•cule /ˈmɪnəˌskju:l/ *adj* : very small▪ a *minuscule* [=*tiny*] house/apartment/garden

minus sign *noun, pl* ~ **signs** [*count*] *mathematics* : the symbol – used to show that a number is being subtracted from another number or that a quantity is less than zero — compare PLUS SIGN

[1]min•ute /ˈmɪnət/ *noun, pl* **-utes**
1 [*count*] **a** : a unit of time equal to 60 seconds : one 60th of an hour▪ Bake the cake for 25–30 *minutes*. ▪ We waited for several *minutes*, but no one came to the door. ▪ He can run a six-*minute* mile. [=he can run a mile in six minutes] **b** : a brief period of time : MOMENT▪ I saw him a *minute* ago. ▪ Dinner will be ready in just a few *minutes*. ▪ One *minute* it was sunny, the next it was pouring rain. ▪ Could I have a *minute* of your time? = Do you have a *minute*? = Could I speak to you for a *minute*? [=could I speak to you briefly?] ▪ I'm coming, just give me a *minute*. [=wait for me] ▪ It was an excellent show. I enjoyed every *minute* of it. [=I enjoyed all of it] ▪ I'll explain that ***in a minute*** [=shortly, soon] — see also LAST MINUTE
2 [*count*] : the distance that can be traveled in a minute▪ My house is just a few *minutes* from here.
3 ***minutes*** [*plural*] : an official record of what was said and done in a meeting▪ The secretary read the *minutes* of the last meeting. ▪ The secretary took the *minutes* [=recorded in writing what happened] during the meeting.
4 [*count*] *technical* : one of 60 equal parts into which a degree can be divided for measuring angles▪ 42 degrees and 30 *minutes*
a laugh a minute see [2]LAUGH
any minute ✧ If something could happen (***at***) ***any minute*** (***now***), it could happen very soon.▪ The bus should be here *any minute now*. ▪ I'm expecting a phone call *any minute*. ▪ Things could change *at any minute*. [=*at any moment*]
at/on a minute's notice see [1]NOTICE
from minute to minute *or* ***from one minute to the next*** *or* ***minute by minute*** : very quickly as time passes▪ Things kept changing *from minute to minute*. [=*from moment to moment*]
hold/hang on a minute *or* ***wait/just a minute*** *informal* **1** — used to tell someone to wait or to stop for a brief time▪ "Aren't you finished yet?" "*Hold on a minute*. I'm almost done." ▪ *Hang on a minute*—I didn't hear you. Could you repeat what you said? **2** — used to express surprise or disbelief▪ Hey, *wait a minute*! That's not what you said yesterday!
just this minute see [2]JUST
not for a/one minute : at no time : not at all : NEVER▪ I did *not* believe her *for one minute*. = *Not for one minute* did I believe her. [=I never believed her]
the minute : as soon as▪ Please call me *the minute* you get home. ▪ I knew *the minute* (that) I saw it that I had to have this dress.
this minute : right now : IMMEDIATELY ▪ Stop it *this minute*! ▪ I have to have the report *this minute*.
to the minute : exactly or precisely▪ The buses were on time *to the minute*. — see also UP-TO-THE-MINUTE
within minutes : within a very short amount of time▪ We called an ambulance and it arrived *within minutes*.

[2]mi•nute /maɪˈnu:t, *Brit* maɪˈnju:t/ *adj* **mi•nut•er**; **-est** [*or more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : very small : TINY▪ There were *minute* particles of dust in the air. ▪ The test detected *minute* amounts of contamination. ▪ The equipment is able to detect the *minutest* errors.
2 : very complete and precise▪ She told him what happened in *minute* detail. ▪ a *minute* examination of the evidence
– **mi•nute•ly** *adv*▪ a *minutely* detailed drawing ▪ studied the evidence *minutely*

minute hand *noun, pl* ~ **hands** [*count*] : the long hand that marks the minutes on a watch or clock — compare HOUR HAND, SECOND HAND

min•ute•man /ˈmɪnətˌmæn/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-ˌmɛn/ [*count*] : a member of a group of men who fought on the side of the American colonies and who were ready to go quickly into battle during the American Revolution

mi•nu•ti•ae /məˈnu:ʃiˌi:, *Brit* məˈnju:ʃiˌi:/ *noun* [*plural*] : small or minor details▪ the *minutiae* of daily life ▪ He was bewildered by the contract's *minutiae*.

minx /ˈmɪŋks/ *noun, pl* **minx•es** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a sexually attractive and playful woman who often causes trouble▪ a clever little *minx*

mir•a•cle /ˈmirɪkəl/ *noun, pl* **-a•cles** [*count*]
1 : an unusual or wonderful event that is believed to be caused by the power of God▪ a divine *miracle* ▪ She believed that God had given her the power to work/perform *miracles*. ▪ a *miracle* worker [=a person who is able to work/perform miracles]
2 : a very amazing or unusual event, thing, or achievement▪ It would take a *miracle* for this team to win. ▪ The bridge is a *miracle* of engineering. = The bridge is an engineering *miracle*. ▪ the *miracle* of birth ▪ It's a (minor) *miracle* that he succeeded. ▪ the *miracle* of his recovery ▪ She worked *miracles* with those kids. [=she accomplished wonderful things with those kids] ▪ a ***miracle drug/cure*** [=a drug/cure that is extremely or amazingly effective] ▪ These days, thanks to ***the miracle of television*** we can watch events happening on the other side of the world. ▪ ***By some miracle*** I was on time for work every day this week. [=it is surprising/amazing that I was on time for work every day this week]

mi•rac•u•lous /məˈrækjələs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very wonderful or amazing like a miracle▪ He made a *miraculous* recovery after the accident. ▪ Her memory is nothing short of *miraculous*.
– **mi•rac•u•lous•ly** *adv*▪ *Miraculously*, no one was hurt.

mi•rage /məˈrɑ:ʒ, *Brit* ˈmɪrɑ:ʒ/ *noun, pl* **-rag•es** [*count*]
1 : something (such as a pool of water in the middle of a desert) that is seen and appears to be real but that is not actually there
2 : something that you hope for or want but that is not possible or real▪ A peaceful solution proved to be a *mirage*.

Mi•ran•da /məˈrændə/ *adj, always used before a noun, US, law* : of or relating to the legal rights of an arrested person to have an attorney and to refuse to answer questions▪ ***Miranda rights***▪ The suspect was given a ***Miranda warning*** [=was told about his Miranda rights]

mire /ˈmajɚ/ *noun* : thick and deep mud [*noncount*] The troops marched onward through the muck and the *mire*. — often used figuratively▪ stuck in the *mire* of cynicism ▪ The economy is sinking deeper into the *mire*. [=the economy is bad and getting worse] ▪ His name/reputation has been ***dragged through the mire*** [=has been unfairly damaged or ruined] [*singular*] They found themselves in a *mire* of debt. [=they could not get out of debt]

mired /ˈmajɚd/ *adj, not used before a noun*
1 : stuck in a very difficult situation▪ She was *mired* in work all weekend. ▪ He has been *mired* in controversy throughout his term in office. ▪ The company is *mired* in legal troubles.
2 : stuck in deep mud▪ The car was *mired* in the muck.

[1]mir•ror /ˈmirɚ/ *noun, pl* **-rors** [*count*]

1 : a piece of glass that reflects images ▪ She saw her reflection in the *mirror*. = She looked at herself in the *mirror*. ▪ a bathroom *mirror* — see pictures at BATHROOM, CAR; see also REARVIEW MIRROR
2 : something that shows what another thing is like in a very clear and accurate way — usually singular ▪ Her art is a *mirror* of modern American culture.
– see also SMOKE AND MIRRORS
– **mir•rored** /ˈmirəd/ *adj* ▪ a *mirrored* wall [=a wall that has a mirror or mirrors on it] ▪ *mirrored* glass

²mirror *verb* **-rors; -rored; -ror•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to be very similar to (something) ▪ Her mood *mirrored* the gloomy weather. [=her mood was gloomy like the weather]
: to show (something) in a very clear and accurate way ▪ Her art *mirrors* [=*reflects*] modern American culture.
2 : to show the image of (something) on a surface : REFLECT ▪ The building was *mirrored* in the lake.

mirror image *noun, pl* ~ **-ages** [*count*]
1 : something that looks like something else but with its left and right sides reversed ▪ The left hand and the right hand are *mirror images* (of each other). = The left hand is the/a *mirror image* of the right hand. ▪ The left side of the building is a *mirror image* of the right.
2 : someone who looks like someone else ▪ He's the *mirror image* [=(more commonly) *spitting image*] of his father. [=he looks just like his father]

mirth /ˈmərθ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* + *literary* : happiness and laughter ▪ Her clumsy attempt to cut the cake was the cause of much *mirth*.
– **mirth•ful** /ˈmərθfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ He was in a *mirthful* mood.

mirth•less /ˈmərθləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* + *literary* : showing or feeling no happiness or pleasure ▪ a *mirthless* smile/laugh

mis- /mɪs/ *prefix*
1 : badly : wrongly ▪ *mis*judge ▪ *mis*file ▪ *mis*behave
2 : bad : wrong ▪ *mis*understanding ▪ *mis*deed ▪ *mis*diagnosis
3 : opposite or lack of ▪ *mis*trust

mis•ad•ven•ture /ˌmɪsədˈvɛnʧər/ *noun, pl* **-tures** [*count*] : an unlucky event or occurrence : a bad experience or accident that is usually minor ▪ His vacation turned into a series of *misadventures*.
death by misadventure *Brit, law* : death caused by an accident ▪ a verdict of *death by misadventure*

mis•an•thrope /ˈmɪsnˌθroʊp/ *noun, pl* **-thropes** [*count*] *formal* : a person who does not like other people

mis•an•thro•py /mɪsˈænθrəpi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : dislike or hatred of other people — compare PHILANTHROPY
– **mis•an•throp•ic** /ˌmɪsnˈθrɑːpɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ She became increasingly *misanthropic* in her old age.

mis•ap•ply /ˌmɪsəˈplaɪ/ *verb* **-plies; -plied; -ply•ing** [+ *obj*] : to use (something) incorrectly or in a way that was not intended ▪ a list of words that are often *misapplied* ▪ He has been accused of *misapplying* public funds.
– **mis•ap•pli•ca•tion** /mɪsˌæpləˈkeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*] ▪ *misapplication* of public funds

mis•ap•pre•hen•sion /mɪsˌæprəˈhɛnʃən/ *noun, pl* **-sions** *formal* : an incorrect understanding of something : a wrong idea about something [*count*] He acted on/under the *misapprehension* that they would change their minds. [=he mistakenly thought that they would change their minds] [*noncount*] an error caused by *misapprehension* of the facts
labor under a misapprehension see ²LABOR

mis•ap•pro•pri•ate /ˌmɪsəˈproʊpriˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates; -at•ed; -at•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to take (something, such as money) dishonestly for your own use : to appropriate (something) wrongly ▪ They accused him of *misappropriating* town funds.
– **mis•ap•pro•pri•a•tion** /ˌmɪsəˌproʊpriˈeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She was fired for the *misappropriation* of funds.

mis•be•got•ten /ˌmɪsbəˈgɑːtn̩/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : badly planned or thought out ▪ He was sent on a *misbegotten* [=*misconceived*] diplomatic mission that was sure to fail.

mis•be•have /ˌmɪsbɪˈheɪv/ *verb* **-haves; -haved; -hav•ing** [*no obj*] : to behave badly ▪ The children *misbehaved* during dinner.
– **mis•be•hav•ior** (*US*) *or Brit* **mis•be•hav•iour** /ˌmɪsbɪˈheɪvjər/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The children were punished for their *misbehavior*.

misc. *abbr* miscellaneous

mis•cal•cu•late /mɪsˈkælkjəˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates; -lat•ed; -lat•ing**
1 : to make an error about the size or amount of something [+ *obj*] The waiter *miscalculated* our check. [*no obj*] Unless I *miscalculated*, we have about $500 left.
2 : to make an error in judging a situation [+ *obj*] She has clearly *miscalculated* the importance of her decision. [*no obj*] He realized that he had *miscalculated* in thinking that his proposal would be welcome.
– **mis•cal•cu•la•tion** /mɪsˌkælkjəˈleɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] The waiter made a slight *miscalculation*. [*noncount*] The discrepancy could be caused by mistake or *miscalculation*.

mis•car•riage /mɪsˈkerɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-riag•es**
1 *medical* : a condition in which a pregnancy ends too early and does not result in the birth of a live baby [*count*] She had a *miscarriage*. ▪ a woman who has suffered/had multiple *miscarriages* [*noncount*] a high risk of *miscarriage*
2 [*count*] *law* : an unjust legal decision — used in the phrase ***miscarriage of justice*** ▪ His conviction was a tragic/grave/gross *miscarriage of justice*.

mis•car•ry /ˌmɪsˈkeri/ *verb* **-ries; -ried; -ry•ing** [*no obj*]
1 *medical* : to have a miscarriage : to experience the early and unexpected end of a pregnancy ▪ She *miscarried* at 13 weeks. = She *miscarried* when she was 13 weeks pregnant.
2 *formal* : to go wrong : to fail to achieve the intended purpose ▪ The plan *miscarried*.

mis•cast /ˌmɪsˈkæst, *Brit* ˌmɪsˈkɑːst/ *verb* **-casts; -cast; -cast•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to give (an actor) a role for which the actor is not suited — usually used as *(be) miscast* ▪ He *was miscast* in that film.
2 : to make bad choices in selecting actors for (something, such as a play or movie) — usually used as *(be) miscast* ▪ The play *was miscast*.

mis•ce•ge•na•tion /mɪˌsɛʤəˈneɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : sexual relations or marriage between people of two different races (such as a white person and a black person)

mis•cel•la•neous /ˌmɪsəˈleɪnijəs/ *adj, always used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : including many things of different kinds ▪ a *miscellaneous* collection of tools ▪ *miscellaneous* expenses/items

mis•cel•la•ny /ˈmɪsəˌleɪni, *Brit* mɪˈsɛləni/ *noun, pl* **-nies** [*count*] : a mixture or collection of different things ▪ a *miscellany* of old toys

mis•chance /ˌmɪsˈʧæns, *Brit* ˌmɪsˈʧɑːns/ *noun, pl* **-chances** *formal*
1 [*noncount*] : bad luck ▪ two enemies brought together by *mischance*
2 [*count*] : something caused by bad luck : MISFORTUNE ▪ a series of *mischances*

mis•chief /ˈmɪsʧəf/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : behavior or activity that is annoying but that is not meant to cause serious harm or damage ▪ Those children are always up to some *mischief*. = Those children are always getting into *mischief*. ▪ engaging in *mischief* ▪ It's hard to keep him out of *mischief*.
2 : a playful desire to cause trouble ▪ There was (a hint of) *mischief* in his eyes/smile.
3 *somewhat formal* : harmful behavior ▪ criminal/malicious *mischief*

mis•chie•vous /ˈmɪsʧəvəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : causing or tending to cause annoyance or minor harm or damage ▪ a *mischievous* puppy/child
2 : showing a playful desire to cause trouble ▪ *mischievous* behavior ▪ a *mischievous* smile
3 : intended to harm someone or someone's reputation ▪ *mischievous* gossip ▪ a *mischievous* lie
– **mis•chie•vous•ly** *adv* ▪ She smiled *mischievously*. – **mis•chie•vous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

mis•con•ceived /ˌmɪskənˈsiːvd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : poorly planned or thought out : badly conceived ▪ a *misconceived* notion ▪ a *misconceived* attempt to fix the system

mis•con•cep•tion /ˌmɪskənˈsɛpʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] : a wrong or mistaken idea ▪ a common/popular *misconception* ▪ I'd like to clear up a few *misconceptions* about the schedule.
labor under a misconception see ²LABOR

mis•con•duct /mɪsˈkɑːndəkt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : wrong behavior : behavior or activity that is illegal or morally wrong ▪ He was forced to defend himself against charges of sexual *misconduct*. ▪ There have been reports of *misconduct* by several employees.

mis•con•strue /ˌmɪskənˈstruː/ *verb* **-strues; -strued; -stru•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to understand (something) incor-

rectly ▪ My words were *misconstrued*. ▪ They could *misconstrue* our intentions. — compare CONSTRUE

mis•count /mɪsˈkaʊnt/ *verb* **-counts**; **-count•ed**; **-count•ing** : to count (something) incorrectly [+ *obj*] They believe the votes were *miscounted*. [*no obj*] He had to start counting again when he realized that he had *miscounted*.

mis•cre•ant /ˈmɪskrijənt/ *noun, pl* **-ants** [*count*] *formal* : a person who does something that is illegal or morally wrong ▪ He supports tough penalties against corporate *miscreants*.

mis•deed /ˌmɪsˈdi:d/ *noun, pl* **-deeds** [*count*] *formal* : a morally wrong or illegal act ▪ She threatened to expose to the public the *misdeeds* he had committed.

mis•de•mean•or (*US*) *or Brit* **mis•de•mean•our** /ˌmɪsdɪˈmi:nɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ors** [*count*] *law* : a crime that is not very serious : a crime that is less serious than a felony ▪ He was charged with (committing) a *misdemeanor*.

mis•di•ag•nose /mɪsˈdajɪgˌnoʊs/ *verb* **-nos•es**; **-nosed**; **-nos•ing** [+ *obj*] : to form an incorrect opinion about the cause of (a disease or problem) : to incorrectly diagnose (a disease or problem) ▪ Her condition was *misdiagnosed* by several doctors.

mis•di•ag•no•sis /mɪsˌdajɪgˈnoʊsəs/ *noun, pl* **-no•ses** /mɪsˌdajɪgˈnoʊˌsi:z/ : an incorrect conclusion about the cause of a disease or problem : an incorrect diagnosis [*count*] The doctor made a *misdiagnosis*. ▪ Following several *misdiagnoses*, we finally discovered what the problem really was. [*noncount*] Without proper testing, the potential for *misdiagnosis* is high.

mis•di•rect /ˌmɪsdəˈrɛkt/ *verb* **-rects**; **-rect•ed**; **-rect•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to use or direct (something) in a way that is not correct or appropriate ▪ I feel that his criticism of the government is *misdirected*. [=that his criticism is not deserved or appropriate] ▪ badly *misdirected* energy/efforts

2 a : to send (someone or something) to the wrong place ▪ Their mail was *misdirected* to our address. **b** : to give (someone) incorrect information ▪ If he tells you he's not interested, he's trying to *misdirect* you.

– **mis•di•rec•tion** /ˌmɪsdəˈrɛkʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

mi•ser /ˈmajzɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sers** [*count*] *disapproving* : a person who hates to spend money : a very stingy person ▪ a mean-spirited old *miser*

mis•er•a•ble /ˈmɪzərəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 a : very unhappy ▪ He had a *miserable* childhood. ▪ My boss is making my life thoroughly/utterly *miserable* with her constant demands and criticism. ▪ He felt lonely and *miserable* after his divorce. **b** : very sick or unwell ▪ She drank too much and felt *miserable* [=*wretched, rotten*] the next day.

2 : very severe or unpleasant ▪ I've had a *miserable* cold for the past week. ▪ We've been having *miserable* weather. = The weather has been *miserable*.

3 : very poor in condition or quality ▪ He lived in a *miserable* little shack. ▪ *miserable* [=*wretched*] living conditions

4 *always used before a noun* : very bad ▪ He did a *miserable* job making the sign. [=he made the sign very poorly] ▪ The business was a *miserable* failure. ▪ Their trip turned out to be a *miserable* experience. ▪ She has a *miserable* temper. ▪ the *miserable* state of the economy

5 *always used before a noun* : deserving to be hated ▪ Their boss is a rotten, *miserable* tyrant.

– **mis•er•a•bly** /ˈmɪzərəbli/ *adv* ▪ The business failed *miserably*. ▪ *miserably* poor/unhappy

mi•ser•ly /ˈmajzɚli/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving*

1 : hating to spend money ▪ The team's *miserly* [=*stingy, tightfisted*] owner refused to pay for new equipment.

2 : very small or too small amount ▪ He was given a *miserly* raise. ▪ *miserly* wages

– **mi•ser•li•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *miserliness* of the team's owner

mis•ery /ˈmɪzəri/ *noun, pl* **-er•ies**

1 [*noncount*] : extreme suffering or unhappiness ▪ The war brought *misery* to thousands of refugees. ▪ They were living in overcrowded slums in conditions of great *misery*. ▪ a source of human *misery* ▪ the joy and *misery* of life

2 a [*count*] : something that causes extreme suffering or unhappiness — usually plural ▪ He tends to exaggerate the *miseries* of his childhood. ▪ the joys and *miseries* of life **b** [*singular*] : a very unhappy or painful time or experience ▪ The last years of her life were a *misery*. ▪ My former boss made my life a *misery*. [=my former boss made my life miserable] ✧ When an injured or sick animal is ***put out of its misery***, it is killed so that it no longer has to suffer. This phrase is sometimes used to refer to people as well. ▪ patients who are in constant pain and want to be *put out of their misery* ▪ (*humorous*) I know you're all anxious to hear the results, so let me *put you out of your misery*. [=let me end your suffering by telling you the results] ▪ The champion finally *put him out of his misery* by knocking him out in the fifth round. [=the champion was beating him badly and finally ended the fight by knocking him out]

3 [*singular*] *Brit, informal* : an unhappy person who complains often or constantly : MISERY GUTS ▪ Stop being such a *misery*.

misery guts *noun* [*singular*] *Brit, informal* : an unhappy person who complains often or constantly ▪ Lighten up: don't be such an old *misery guts*! [=*sourpuss*]

mis•file /ˈmɪsˌfajəl/ *verb* **-files**; **-filed**; **-fil•ing** [+ *obj*] : to put (a document) in the wrong place : to file (something) in the wrong place ▪ I found papers that had been *misfiled*.

mis•fire /ˌmɪsˈfajɚ/ *verb* **-fires**; **-fired**; **-fir•ing** [*no obj*]

1 *of an engine* : to fail to work properly because the fuel mixture burns at the wrong time

2 *of a gun* : to fail to fire properly : to fail to shoot a bullet

3 : to fail to have an intended effect : to fail to work properly ▪ The plan/joke *misfired*. [=the plan/joke did not have the effect it was meant to have]

– **misfire** *noun, pl* **-fires** [*count*] ▪ an engine *misfire* ▪ The joke was an unfortunate *misfire*.

mis•fit /ˈmɪsˌfɪt/ *noun, pl* **-fits** [*count*] : a person who is different from other people and who does not seem to belong in a particular group or situation ▪ a social *misfit*

mis•for•tune /ˌmɪsˈfoɚtʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tunes**

1 [*noncount*] : bad luck ▪ a victim of economic *misfortune* ▪ She endured her *misfortune* without complaint. ▪ It was my *misfortune* to be chosen first. ▪ It was the worst movie I've ever had the *misfortune* to see. = (*chiefly US*) It was the worst movie I've ever had the *misfortune* of seeing.

2 [*count*] : an unlucky condition or event ▪ Her injury was a great *misfortune*. ▪ He blamed the party's *misfortunes* on poor leadership.

mis•giv•ing /ˌmɪsˈgɪvɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** : a feeling of doubt about something : a feeling that something might not be right or might not work as planned — often + *about* [*count*] — usually plural ▪ Many people have expressed (deep/serious/grave) *misgivings about* her qualifications for the job. ▪ I felt some *misgivings about* his ability to do the job. [*noncount*] I felt some *misgiving about* his ability to do the job. ▪ They regarded the plan with *misgiving*.

mis•guid•ed /ˌmɪsˈgaɪdəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : having wrong or improper goals or values ▪ She's been getting a lot of bad advice from *misguided* friends.

2 : resulting from wrong or improper goals or values ▪ He blames the crisis on the government's *misguided* economic policies. ▪ a *misguided* attempt/effort to help ▪ *misguided* ideas/notions

– **mis•guid•ed•ly** *adv* ▪ *misguidedly* attempting to help

mis•han•dle /ˌmɪsˈhændl/ *verb* **-han•dles**; **-han•dled**; **-han•dling** [+ *obj*]

1 : to deal with or manage (something) badly or incorrectly ▪ The police *mishandled* the investigation.

2 : to touch or treat (something) in a way that causes damage ▪ *mishandle* a package ▪ Apples are easily bruised when they are *mishandled*.

3 *sports* : to fail to catch or hold (a ball) properly ▪ The shortstop *mishandled* the throw. ▪ The quarterback fumbled when he *mishandled* the snap.

– **mis•han•dling** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The police have been criticized for their *mishandling* of the investigation.

mis•hap /ˈmɪsˌhæp/ *noun, pl* **-haps**

1 : a small mistake or amount of bad luck [*count*] We experienced the usual *mishaps* of a family vacation. [*noncount*] The ceremony proceeded ***without mishap***.

2 [*count*] : an unlucky accident or mistake ▪ The fire was a tragic *mishap* that could have been prevented.

mis•hear /ˌmɪsˈhiɚ/ *verb* **-hears**; **-heard** /-ˈhɚd/; **-hearing** [+ *obj*] : to hear (a person who is speaking) incorrectly ▪ You *misheard* me. I said I was feeling anxious, not angry. : to hear (something that is said) incorrectly ▪ I must have *misheard* the instructions. ▪ I *misheard* "mother" as "mutter."

mis•hit /ˌmɪsˈhɪt/ *verb* **-hits**; **-hit**; **-hit•ting** [+ *obj*] *sports* : to hit (something, such as a ball) incorrectly ▪ She made a bogey after *mishitting* her tee shot.

– **mishit** *noun, pl* **-hits** [*count*]

mish•mash /ˈmɪʃˌmæʃ/ *noun* [*singular*] *informal* : a con-

fused mixture of things — usually + *of* ▪ The collection is a *mishmash* [=*hodgepodge, jumble*] *of* different styles.

mis•in•form /ˌmɪsɪnˈfoɚm/ *verb* **-forms**; **-formed**; **-form•ing** [+ *obj*] : to give (someone) false or incorrect information ▪ The company is accused of *misinforming* its shareholders about last year's profits. ▪ I felt I had been *misinformed* about the risks involved. — see also MISINFORMED

mis•in•for•ma•tion /mɪsˌɪnfɚˈmeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : information that is not completely true or accurate ▪ a company accused of providing *misinformation* to its shareholders — compare DISINFORMATION

misinformed *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : not having accurate or completely accurate information about something ▪ The public is badly/sadly *misinformed* about the possible effects of the proposed law. ▪ questions from a *misinformed* reporter
2 : based on information that is not accurate or not completely accurate ▪ *misinformed* beliefs/choices

mis•in•ter•pret /ˌmɪsn̩ˈtɚprət/ *verb* **-prets**; **-pret•ed**; **-pret•ing** [+ *obj*] : to understand or explain (something) incorrectly : to interpret (something) incorrectly ▪ He claims that his statements have been *misinterpreted* by the media. ▪ Her silence should not be *misinterpreted* as consent.
– **mis•in•ter•pre•ta•tion** /ˌmɪsn̩ˌtɚprəˈteɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*] ▪ The rules should be written so that they are not subject to *misinterpretation*. [=so that they cannot be misunderstood]

mis•judge /ˌmɪsˈʤʌʤ/ *verb* **-judg•es**; **-judged**; **-judg•ing** [+ *obj*] : to judge (someone or something) incorrectly or unfairly: such as **a** : to have an unfair opinion about (someone) ▪ I can see that I've completely *misjudged* you. I apologize. **b** : to estimate (something, such as an amount, distance, etc.) incorrectly ▪ The outfielder *misjudged* the fly ball and it went over his head. ▪ The pilot *misjudged* the landing.
– **mis•judg•ment** *also chiefly Brit* **mis•judge•ment** /ˌmɪsˈʤʌʤmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count, noncount*] ▪ tactical *misjudgments*

mis•lay /ˌmɪsˈleɪ/ *verb* **-lays**; **-laid** /ˌmɪsˈleɪd/; **-lay•ing** [+ *obj*] : to lose (something) for a short time by forgetting where you put it ▪ I *mislaid* [=*misplaced*] my car keys.

mis•lead /ˌmɪsˈliːd/ *verb* **-leads**; **-led** /ˌmɪsˈlɛd/; **-lead•ing** : to cause (someone) to believe something that is not true [+ *obj*] We believe that her comments were deliberately meant to *mislead* the public. ▪ Don't be *misled* [=*fooled*] by his friendly appearance—he's really a ruthless competitor. ▪ The early results *misled* us into thinking we would win the election easily. [*no obj*] We believe that her comments were deliberately meant to *mislead*.
– **mis•lead•ing** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ The early results were very *misleading*. [=*deceptive*] ▪ deliberately *misleading* comments – **mis•lead•ing•ly** /ˌmɪsˈliːdɪŋli/ *adv* ▪ a *misleadingly* labeled product

mis•man•age /ˌmɪsˈmænɪʤ/ *verb* **-ag•es**; **-aged**; **-ag•ing** [+ *obj*] : to manage or control (something) badly ▪ *mismanage* a company
– **mis•man•age•ment** /ˌmɪsˈmænɪʤmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ These problems are due to *mismanagement*.

[1]mis•match /ˈmɪsˌmæʧ/ *verb* **-match•es**; **-matched**; **-match•ing** [+ *obj*] : to put (people or things that are not suited to each other) together : to match (people or things) badly ▪ a designer who intentionally *mismatches* colors
– **mis•matched** *adj* ▪ wearing *mismatched* clothes ▪ They were married for three years, but they were badly *mismatched*. [=they were not suited to each other]

[2]mismatch *noun, pl* **-matches** [*count*] : a bad match: such as **a** : a situation in which two people or things that are not suited to each other are together ▪ a marital *mismatch* **b** : a situation in which two people or things are not balanced or equal to each other in some way ▪ a *mismatch* between supply and demand; *especially* : a game or contest in which one person, team, etc., is much better or stronger than the other ▪ The election turned out to be a *mismatch*.

mis•name /ˌmɪsˈneɪm/ *verb* **-names**; **-named**; **-nam•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to give (someone or something) a name that is not proper or appropriate ▪ They *misnamed* the airport when they called it "international." Almost all the arriving and departing flights are local.
2 : to give or show an incorrect name for (someone or something) ▪ The caption *misnamed* the person in the picture.

mis•no•mer /ˌmɪsˈnoʊmɚ/ *noun, pl* **-mers** [*count*] : a name that is wrong or not proper or appropriate ▪ "International Airport" is something of a *misnomer*, since almost all the arriving and departing flights are local.

mi•sog•y•nist /məˈsɑːʤənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-nists** [*count*] : a man who hates women — often used before another noun ▪ a *misogynist* joke ▪ their *misogynist* boss
– **mi•sog•y•ny** /məˈsɑːʤəni/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ lyrics that promote violence and *misogyny*

mis•place /ˌmɪsˈpleɪs/ *verb* **-plac•es**; **-placed**; **-plac•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to put (something) in the wrong place ▪ *misplace* a comma
2 : to lose (something) for a short time by forgetting where you put it : MISLAY ▪ He *misplaced* his keys.
3 : to direct (a feeling, such as trust or confidence) toward someone or something that does not deserve it ▪ She realized that her trust had been *misplaced*. [=she had trusted someone who did not deserve to be trusted]
– **misplaced** *adj* ▪ *misplaced* [=*unrealistic, inappropriate*] expectations ▪ His confidence in himself seems *misplaced*. ▪ *misplaced* loyalty/faith – **mis•place•ment** /ˌmɪsˈpleɪsmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *misplacement* of trust

mis•play /ˈmɪsˌpleɪ/ *noun, pl* **-plays** [*count*] : a mistake made by a person who is playing a sport (such as baseball or tennis) ▪ a *misplay* [=*error*] by the shortstop
– **mis•play** /ˌmɪsˈpleɪ/ *verb* **-plays**; **-played**; **-play•ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ The shortstop *misplayed* the grounder. [=failed to catch it, stop it, etc.]

mis•print /ˈmɪsˌprɪnt/ *noun, pl* **-prints** [*count*] : a mistake (such as a spelling error) in something printed ▪ a book with many *misprints*

mis•pro•nounce /ˌmɪsprəˈnaʊns/ *verb* **-nounc•es**; **-nounced**; **-nounc•ing** [+ *obj*] : to pronounce (a word or name) incorrectly ▪ His name is often *mispronounced*.
– **mis•pro•nun•ci•a•tion** /ˌmɪsprəˌnʌnsiˈeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*]

mis•quote /ˌmɪsˈkwoʊt/ *verb* **-quotes**; **-quot•ed**; **-quot•ing** [+ *obj*] : to report or repeat (something that someone has said or written) in a way that is not correct or accurate : to quote (someone) incorrectly ▪ *misquote* Shakespeare ▪ The mayor says that she was *misquoted* by the press.
– **mis•quo•ta•tion** /ˌmɪskwoʊˈteɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*] ▪ an article containing many *misquotations* – **misquote** *noun, pl* **-quotes** [*count*] ▪ an article containing many *misquotes*

mis•read /ˌmɪsˈriːd/ *verb* **-reads**; **-read** /-ˈrɛd/; **-read•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to read (something) incorrectly ▪ I guess I *misread* the instructions.
2 : to understand (something) incorrectly ▪ They have *misread* the lessons of the past. ▪ Politicians may have *misread* the mood of the public. ▪ I badly *misread* the situation.
– **mis•read•ing** *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] — usually singular ▪ a potentially dangerous *misreading* of the public mood

mis•rep•re•sent /ˌmɪsˌrɛprɪˈzɛnt/ *verb* **-sents**; **-sent•ed**; **-sent•ing** [+ *obj*] : to describe (someone or something) in a false way especially in order to deceive someone : to give someone a false idea about (something or someone) ▪ The company is accused of *misrepresenting* its earnings. ▪ He *misrepresented* himself as a writer. [=he claimed to be a writer but he wasn't one] ▪ The movie deliberately *misrepresents* the facts/truth about her life.
– **mis•rep•re•sen•ta•tion** /ˌmɪsˌrɛprɪˌzɛnˈteɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*] ▪ deliberate *misrepresentations* of the truth

mis•rule /ˌmɪsˈruːl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : bad government ▪ The people of that country have endured many years of *misrule*.

[1]miss /ˈmɪs/ *verb* **miss•es**; **missed**; **miss•ing**
1 : to fail to hit, catch, reach, or get (something) [+ *obj*] *miss* a target ▪ He swung and *missed* the ball completely. ▪ The shot *missed* the goal by inches. ▪ *miss* a putt ▪ They (just/barely) *missed* the deadline. ▪ The team *missed* the play-offs last year. [=the team failed to qualify for the play-offs] [*no obj*] The batter swung and *missed*. ▪ She took three shots and *missed* every time. ▪ The shot *missed* badly.
2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to fail to use (something, such as an opportunity) ▪ I would hate to *miss* this opportunity. ▪ She could have joined us, but she *missed* her chance. ▪ This opportunity is ***too good to miss***. [=so good that no one would want to fail to use it] **b** : to fail to do, take, make, or have (something) ▪ The driver was so distracted that he *missed* the turn. [=he failed to turn when he should have] ▪ They *missed* a payment on their car loan. ▪ *miss* a tackle ▪ She *missed* her medication.

▪ He was in such a hurry that he *missed* breakfast.

3 [+ *obj*] : to be without (something) : to lack (something) — used in the phrase ***be missing*** ▪ He *was missing* one of his front teeth. [=he did not have one of his front teeth; one of his front teeth was missing] ▪ The old house *is missing* some of its windows. — see also MISSING

4 [+ *obj*] **a** : to fail to be present for (something) ▪ She *missed* three days of school when she was sick. ▪ *miss* a class ▪ He hasn't *missed* a day's work in years. ▪ This is an event you won't want to *miss*. = This is an event that is ***not to be missed*** [=that you should experience] ▪ "Are you going to their wedding?" "Yes, I ***wouldn't miss it for the world***." [=I would not consider not going; I will definitely go] **b** : to arrive too late for (something or someone) ▪ He *missed* his train. ▪ I *missed* the flight/connection by only a few minutes. ▪ She was delayed in traffic and *missed* her appointment. ▪ You just *missed* him—he left five minutes ago.

5 [+ *obj*] : to notice or feel the absence of (someone or something) ▪ I'm so glad you're back. I've *missed* you. ▪ She left quietly, and it was a while before she was *missed*. [=before anyone noticed that she had left] ▪ We *miss* our old friends. [=we feel sad because we are not near our old friends] ▪ I *miss* being home at Christmas. [=I am sad not to be home at Christmas] ▪ You'll be (sorely/much) *missed* when you retire. ▪ He *misses* his wife terribly. ▪ I *miss* the old neighborhood. ▪ I didn't *miss* my bag [=I didn't notice that my bag was missing] until I got to the car.

6 [+ *obj*] **a** : to fail to understand (something) ▪ You *missed* the main point of the story. ▪ You're *missing* my point. ▪ Am I *missing* something? ▪ She doesn't *miss* a thing. [=she understands everything that is being said, that is happening, etc.] **b** : to fail to hear or learn about (something) ▪ Here's the latest news, in case you *missed* it. ▪ I'm sorry, but I *missed* the first part of what you said. **c** : to fail to see or notice (something or someone) ▪ It's a big white building on the corner—***you can't miss it*** [=it is impossible not to see/notice it] ▪ As the only woman in the race, she was hard to *miss*.

7 [+ *obj*] : to avoid (something) ▪ Her car skidded off the road and barely *missed* hitting a telephone pole. ▪ He just *missed* being seriously hurt. [=he was almost seriously hurt]

8 [*no obj*] : to fail to succeed ▪ With a cast like this, the movie ***can't miss*** [=it will definitely succeed]

9 [*no obj*] : MISFIRE 1 ▪ The engine *missed*.

miss a beat see ²BEAT

miss its/the mark see ¹MARK

miss out [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to lose an opportunity : to be unable to have or enjoy something ▪ It's too bad you weren't able to come with us. You really *missed out*. — often + *on* ▪ You really *missed out on* a good time. ▪ If you don't act now you could *miss out on* a great opportunity.

2 ***miss out (someone or something) or miss (someone or something) out*** *Brit* : to leave (someone or something) out : OMIT ▪ You've *missed out* the most important fact!

miss the boat see ¹BOAT

miss the forest for the trees see TREE

never/not miss a trick see ¹TRICK

²miss *noun, pl* **misses** [*count*]

1 : a failure to hit something ▪ She hit the target five straight times without a *miss*. ▪ His first shot was a bad *miss*.

2 : a failure to reach a desired goal or result ▪ Her movies have been a mixture of hits and *misses*. [=some have been successful and some have not] — see also HIT-AND-MISS, NEAR MISS

give (something) a miss *chiefly Brit, informal* : to choose not to do (something) or go (somewhere) ▪ I had so much else to do that I decided to *give the party a miss*.

– compare ³MISS

³miss *noun, pl* **misses**

1 ***Miss*** **a** — used as a title before the name of an unmarried woman or girl ▪ *Miss* Jones — compare MRS., MS. **b** — used as a title before the name of a married woman who does not use her husband's name ▪ *Miss* Bette Davis **c** — used as part of a title for a girl or young woman who has won a contest (such as a beauty contest) and who represents the place or thing indicated ▪ *Miss* America **d** *Brit* — used by children as a way to address a female teacher

2 a — used as a polite way to address a girl or young woman ▪ Can I help you, *miss*? **b** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a girl or young woman ▪ a talented young *miss*

3 ***misses*** [*plural*] *US* : a clothing size for women of average height and weight — usually used before another noun ▪ *misses* dresses

– compare ²MISS

mis•shap•en /ˌmɪsˈʃeɪpən/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : badly shaped : having an ugly shape ▪ a *misshapen* hand

mis•sile /ˈmɪsəl, *Brit* ˈmɪˌsaɪl/ *noun, pl* **-siles** [*count*] : an object that is thrown, shot, or launched as a weapon ▪ The protesters were arrested for throwing *missiles* [=rocks, bottles, etc.] at the police.; *especially* : a rocket that explodes when it hits a distant target ▪ a nuclear *missile* — see also BALLISTIC MISSILE, CRUISE MISSILE, GUIDED MISSILE, SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE, SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE

miss•ing /ˈmɪsɪŋ/ *adj*

1 : unable to be found : not in a usual or expected place ▪ My keys are *missing*. [=I can't find my keys] ▪ One of his front teeth is *missing*. [=he does not have one of his front teeth; he is missing one of his front teeth] ▪ a *missing* tooth ▪ *missing* children — often + *from* ▪ A few books are *missing from* the shelf. ▪ She discovered that some important papers were *missing from* her desk. — sometimes used in the phrase ***go missing*** ▪ My keys have *gone missing* again. [=I cannot find my keys again; my keys are missing again] ✧ This phrase is more common in British English than in U.S. English.

2 : needed or expected but not included ▪ The new director has provided the *missing* ingredient that was needed for the show's success. ▪ It's a good sauce, but there's something *missing*. [=it lacks something that would make it better] — often + *from* ▪ There was something *missing from* his life.

missing in action — used to say that a soldier cannot be found after a battle and might have been killed, captured, or wounded ▪ soldiers who are *missing in action* and presumed dead

missing link *noun, pl* ~ **links**

1 [*count*] : something that you do not have and that you need to complete a series or to solve a problem ▪ Police are hopeful that the new evidence will provide the *missing links* needed to solve the crime.

2 ***the missing link*** : a kind of animal that was in some ways like an ape and in some ways like a human being and that is thought to have existed in the past but has not been discovered ▪ scientists searching for *the missing link*

missing person *noun, pl* ~ **-sons** [*count*] : a person whose location is not known and whose absence has been reported to the police ▪ Their teenage daughter has been officially listed as a *missing person* since she failed to return home after leaving school. ▪ They've filed a ***missing person report*** with the police. [=a document that officially reports that someone is missing]

mis•sion /ˈmɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-sions** [*count*]

1 a : a task or job that someone is given to do ▪ Our *mission* was to recover the stolen plans. ▪ He was sent on a fact-finding *mission*. = He was sent on a *mission* to gather information. ▪ By patient negotiation she succeeded in her *mission* of averting a strike. ▪ go on a ***rescue mission*** [=go somewhere to rescue someone] ▪ The volunteers were on a ***mission of mercy*** to help victims of the disaster. [=the volunteers were sent to help the victims of the disaster] ▪ a ***mercy mission*** **b** : a specific military or naval task ▪ a reconnaissance *mission* ▪ a peacekeeping *mission* ▪ a combat/training *mission* **c** : a flight by an aircraft or spacecraft to perform a specific task ▪ a bombing *mission* ▪ a manned space *mission* ▪ a shuttle *mission* ▪ a *mission* to the moon — see also MISSION CONTROL

2 : a task that you consider to be a very important duty ▪ His *mission* is to help poor children. = He has made it his ***mission in life*** to help poor children. = He's a man ***with a mission*** to help poor children. ▪ She's ***on a mission*** to locate her lost sister. [=she is very determined to find her lost sister]

3 : a group of people sent to a foreign country for a specific reason (such as to have discussions or to provide training or assistance) ▪ a member of a trade *mission*

4 a : a group of people who are sent to a foreign country to do religious work : a group of missionaries ▪ a Catholic *mission* **b** : a place or building where such work is done ▪ touring a Spanish *mission* in California ▪ a *mission* church

¹mis•sion•ary /ˈmɪʃəˌneri, *Brit* ˈmɪʃənri/ *noun, pl* **-ar•ies** [*count*] : a person who is sent to a foreign country to do religious work (such as to convince people to join a religion or to help people who are sick, poor, etc.) ▪ a Christian *missionary*

²missionary *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : of or relating to missionaries ▪ *missionary* work ▪ a *missionary* school

2 : very enthusiastic and eager about doing a job or support-

ing a cause ▪ He spoke with ***missionary zeal*** about the project. [=he spoke with great enthusiasm about the project]

mission control *noun* [*noncount*] : the group of people on the ground who direct or control the flight of a spacecraft ▪ The astronauts received a message from *mission control*.

mission statement *noun, pl* ~ **-ments** [*count*] : something that states the purpose or goal of a business or organization ▪ The company's *mission statement* emphasizes its ongoing commitment to meeting the needs of the community.

missis *variant spelling of* MISSUS

mis•sive /'mɪsɪv/ *noun, pl* **-sives** [*count*] *formal + humorous* : a letter or other written message ▪ a fund-raising *missive* ▪ She received yet another lengthy *missive* from her father.

mis•spell /ˌmɪs'spɛl/ *verb* **-spells**; **-spelled** *or chiefly Brit* **-spelt** /-'spɛlt/; **-spell•ing** [+ *obj*] : to spell (a word or name) incorrectly ▪ The name of the town had been *misspelled* on the map.

– **mis•spell•ing** /ˌmɪs'spɛlɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] ▪ The letter contains numerous *misspellings*.

mis•spend /ˌmɪs'spɛnd/ *verb* **-spends**; **-spent** /-'spɛnt/; **-spend•ing** [+ *obj*] : to spend or use (something, such as time or money) in a way that is not legal, careful, or wise ▪ Several government officials have been accused of *misspending* public money.

– **misspent** *adj* ▪ *misspent* money ▪ a *misspent* summer ▪ He enjoys telling stories of his ***misspent youth***. [=of the time when he was young and doing things that are not considered wise or proper]

mis•state /ˌmɪs'steɪt/ *verb* **-states**; **-stated**; **-stating** [+ *obj*] : to state or report (something) incorrectly ▪ The company *misstated* its profits. ▪ An article in yesterday's paper *misstated* the name of the district attorney.

– **mis•state•ment** /ˌmɪs'steɪtmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count, noncount*] ▪ correcting a *misstatement*

mis•step /ˌmɪs'stɛp/ *noun, pl* **-steps** [*count*] *chiefly US* : an action or decision that is a mistake ▪ Their decision to relocate the company was a major *misstep*. ▪ make a strategic *misstep* [=*blunder*]

mis•sus *also* **mis•sis** /'mɪsəz/ *noun, pl* **-sus•es** *also* **-sis•es** [*count*]

1 *informal + old-fashioned* : WIFE — usually singular ▪ He had another argument with his *missus*. ▪ How's the *missus*? — compare MISTER 2

2 *Brit, informal* — used to address a woman whose name is not known ▪ Need a hand with your luggage, *missus*?

[1]mist /'mɪst/ *noun, pl* **mists**

1 : water in the form of very small drops floating in the air or falling as rain [*noncount*] We could barely see the shore through the *mist*. [*count*] The hills were veiled/shrouded in a fine *mist*.

2 [*count*] : a stream of liquid in the form of very small drops : a fine spray ▪ an aerosol *mist*

3 [*count*] : something that makes understanding difficult ▪ an issue clouded by *mists* of confusion

lost in the mists of time ✧ Something *lost in the mists of time* is forgotten because it happened long ago. ▪ The origins of this ancient ritual are *lost in the mists of time*.

[2]mist *verb* **mists**; **mist•ed**; **mist•ing**

1 [*no obj*] **a** : to become covered with very small drops of water — usually + *up* ▪ My glasses *misted* [=*fogged*] *up* when I came in from the cold. **b** *of a person's eyes* : to fill with tears ▪ Her eyes *misted*. — usually + *over* or *up* ▪ Her eyes *misted over* as she thought of her old friends.

2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to cover (something) with mist ▪ a *misted* valley **b** : to spray (something) with very small drops of water ▪ The plant should be *misted* regularly.

3 [*no obj*] : to rain very lightly ▪ It was *misting* when we arrived. ▪ a *misting* rain

[1]mis•take /mə'steɪk/ *noun, pl* **-takes** [*count*] : something that is not correct : a wrong action, statement, or judgment : ERROR ▪ It would be a *mistake* to assume that we can rely on their help. ▪ There must be some *mistake*. ▪ a stupid/careless *mistake* ▪ a costly/serious/bad *mistake* ▪ a deadly/fatal/tragic *mistake* ▪ The manuscript contains numerous spelling *mistakes*. ▪ There's a *mistake* in the schedule. ▪ "When does the movie start?" "At 8:00. No, wait—***my mistake***—it starts at 8:30." ▪ Don't worry about it. It was an ***honest mistake***. [=something that anyone could be wrong about] — often used with *make* ▪ Everybody *makes mistakes* from time to time. ▪ I *made* the *mistake* of believing her. — see also MAKE NO MISTAKE (below)

and no mistake *chiefly Brit, old-fashioned* — used to stress the truth or accuracy of a statement ▪ She's the one I saw, *and no mistake*. [=she is definitely the person I saw]

by mistake : because of a mistake : without intending to ▪ I got on the wrong train *by mistake*. [=*accidentally*]

make no mistake — used to stress the truth or accuracy of a statement ▪ *Make no mistake* (about it), if we don't address these problems now, they will only get worse.

[2]mis•take *verb* **mis•takes**; **mis•took** /mə'stʊk/; **mis•tak•en** /mə'steɪkən/; **mis•tak•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to understand (something or someone) incorrectly ▪ They *mistook* my meaning.

2 : to make a wrong judgment about (something) ▪ The army's leaders *mistook* the strength of the enemy. [=they did not realize how strong the enemy was] ✧ If you say ***there is no mistaking*** something, it is very clear or obvious. ▪ She may be unconventional but *there's no mistaking* her ability to run the company. ▪ *There was no mistaking* his determination. [=his determination was obvious]

3 : to identify (someone or something) incorrectly — usually + *for* ▪ I *mistook* him *for* his brother. [=I thought that he was his brother]

mistaken *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not correct : incorrect or wrong ▪ I may be *mistaken*, but I think we've met before. ▪ If you think the job is finished, you are sadly/badly/sorely *mistaken*. ▪ He ignored the law in the *mistaken* belief that he was immune from punishment. ▪ If I'm not *mistaken*, the bus leaves at 7:00. ▪ a *mistaken* assumption ▪ Her arrest was ***a case of mistaken identity***. [=she was arrested because the police thought she was someone else] ▪ a *mistaken* impression/interpretation

– **mis•tak•en•ly** *adv* ▪ He *mistakenly* believed that he was immune from punishment.

mis•ter /'mɪstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters**

1 ***Mister*** — used sometimes in writing instead of *Mr.*

2 [*count*] *US, informal + old-fashioned* : HUSBAND — usually singular ▪ She went off to the store while the/her *mister* [=her husband] stayed home. — compare MISSUS 1

3 *informal* — used in speech especially by children to address a man whose name is not known ▪ Hey *mister*, do you want to buy a paper?

mis•time /ˌmɪs'taɪm/ *verb* **-times**; **-timed**; **-tim•ing** [+ *obj*] : to do or say (something) at the wrong time : to time (something) incorrectly ▪ They *mistimed* their arrival. ▪ a *mistimed* remark ▪ The batter *mistimed* his swing.

mis•tle•toe /'mɪsəlˌtoʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a plant with yellowish flowers and white berries that is traditionally used as a Christmas decoration ✧ Pieces of mistletoe are often hung from the ceiling or in a doorway at Christmastime. According to tradition, if you stand with someone under a piece of mistletoe, you are supposed to kiss that person.

mistook *past tense of* [2]MISTAKE

mis•treat /ˌmɪs'tri:t/ *verb* **-treats**; **-treat•ed**; **-treat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to treat (someone or something) badly : ABUSE ▪ They accuse him of *mistreating* his wife. ▪ She claimed she had been *mistreated* by the police.

– **mis•treat•ment** /ˌmɪs'tri:tmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *mistreatment* of prisoners

mis•tress /'mɪstrəs/ *noun, pl* **-tress•es** [*count*]

1 : a woman who has control or power over others: such as **a** : a woman who has a servant or slave ▪ Servants were required to do the *mistress's* bidding without question. **b** : a woman who owns a pet (such as a dog) ▪ The dog was always obedient to its master and *mistress*. **c** *formal* : the female head of a household ▪ the master and *mistress* of the house — compare MASTER

2 : a woman who has control of something ▪ She proved herself (to be) *mistress* of the situation.

3 : a woman who has a sexual relationship with a married man ▪ a married man who has/keeps a *mistress* ▪ His wife suspected that the woman she'd seen with him was his *mistress*.

4 **a** *chiefly Brit, old-fashioned* : a female teacher : SCHOOLMISTRESS — see also HEADMISTRESS **b** ***Mistress*** — used as a title for the female head of certain British colleges ▪ She was *Mistress* of Girton (College).

5 ***Mistress*** *old-fashioned* — used as a title before the name of a woman ▪ *Mistress* Jones

mistress of ceremonies *noun, pl* **mistresses of ceremonies** [*count*] : a woman who introduces guests, speakers, or performers at a formal event : a woman who is a master of ceremonies

mis•tri•al /'mɪsˌtrajəl/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] *law* : a trial that is not valid because of an error or because the jury is unable

to decide a verdict ▪ The judge declared a *mistrial*.

[1]mis•trust /ˌmɪsˈtrʌst/ *noun* : lack of trust or confidence : a feeling that someone is not honest and cannot be trusted [*noncount*] She was very open about her *mistrust* [=*distrust*] of politicians. [*singular*] She has a strong *mistrust* of politicians.

– **mis•trust•ful** /ˌmɪsˈtrʌstfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] — often + *of* ▪ She is *mistrustful of* politicians. – **mis•trust•fully** /ˌmɪsˈtrʌstfəli/ *adv*

[2]mistrust *verb* **-trusts**; **-trust•ed**; **-trust•ing** [+ *obj*] : to have no trust or confidence in (someone or something) : DISTRUST ▪ She *mistrusts* politicians. ▪ I was starting to *mistrust* my own judgment.

misty /ˈmɪsti/ *adj* **mist•i•er**; **-est**

1 : full of mist ▪ a *misty* valley ▪ *misty* weather

2 : not clearly seen or remembered ▪ *misty* [=*vague, indistinct*] memories of the past

3 *informal* : TEARFUL ▪ *misty* eyes ▪ I ***get (all) misty*** [=I get tears in my eyes; I feel sentimental] when I hear that song.

– **mist•i•ly** /ˈmɪstəli/ *adv* ▪ memories *mistily* remembered – **mist•i•ness** /ˈmɪstinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *mistiness* of the weather

misty–eyed /ˈmɪstiˈaɪd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : having tears in your eyes ▪ He gets *misty-eyed* when he talks about that time.

2 : dreamy or sentimental ▪ *misty-eyed* recollections

mis•un•der•stand /ˌmɪsˌʌndəˈstænd/ *verb* **-stands**; **-stood** /-ˈstʊd/; **-stand•ing** [+ *obj*] : to fail to understand (someone or something) correctly ▪ Don't *misunderstand* me—I'm not criticizing your decision. ▪ You *misunderstood* my question. ▪ He feels that the critics have completely *misunderstood* his movies. ▪ She expressed herself in clear terms that no one could *misunderstand*.

misunderstanding *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 : a failure to understand something [*noncount*] The instructions are carefully written in order to avoid/prevent *misunderstanding*. [*count*] Her comments reflect a *misunderstanding* of the basic problem. ▪ using clear language to avoid *misunderstandings*

2 [*count*] : a usually minor argument or disagreement ▪ an unfortunate *misunderstanding* between old friends ▪ We had our little *misunderstandings* in the past but we managed to clear them up long ago.

mis•un•der•stood /ˌmɪsˌʌndəˈstʊd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : thought of incorrectly : not understood ▪ a *misunderstood* genius ▪ This is a common and often *misunderstood* problem. ▪ He sees himself as a *misunderstood* victim of the media.

[1]mis•use /ˌmɪsˈjuːz/ *verb* **-us•es**; **-used**; **-us•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to use (something) incorrectly ▪ She's charged with *misusing* company funds. ▪ a word that is frequently *misused*

2 : to treat (someone) unfairly ▪ He feels he has been *misused* [=(more commonly) *mistreated*] by the press.

– **mis•us•age** /ˌmɪsˈjuːsɪʤ/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *misusage* [=(more commonly) *misuse*] of company funds

[2]mis•use /ˌmɪsˈjuːs/ *noun, pl* **-us•es** : the act of using something in an illegal, improper, or unfair way : incorrect use [*noncount*] No refunds will be offered on products damaged by/through *misuse*. — usually + *of* ▪ the *misuse of* words ▪ She's charged with *misuse of* company funds. [*count*] — usually + *of* ▪ a common *misuse of* a word ▪ *misuses of* power

mite /ˈmaɪt/ *noun, pl* **mites** [*count*]

1 : a very small creature that often lives on plants, animals, and foods — see also DUST MITE

2 : a small person (such as a child) or thing ▪ his *mite* of a daughter ▪ a tiny *mite* of a woman ▪ This little vacuum cleaner is a ***mighty mite*** [=something that is small but very strong or powerful]

3 *old-fashioned* : a very small amount ▪ There could be a *mite* [=(more commonly) *bit*] of trouble.

a mite : to a small degree : somewhat or slightly ▪ The box could stand to be *a mite* bigger. ▪ The movie's plot is *a mite* [=*a bit, a little*] confusing. ▪ This is *a mite* embarrassing.

[1]mi•ter (*US*) *or Brit* **mi•tre** /ˈmaɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*]

1 : a high pointed hat worn by a bishop or abbot in church ceremonies

2 : MITER JOINT

[2]miter (*US*) *or Brit* **mitre** *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter•ing** [+ *obj*] *technical* : to match or fit (boards) together in a miter joint ▪ The corners of the frame were carefully *mitered*.

miter joint (*US*) *or Brit* **mitre joint** *noun, pl* ~ **joints** [*count*] : a joint or corner made by cutting the edges of two boards at an angle and fitting them together

mit•i•gate /ˈmɪtəˌgeɪt/ *verb* **-gates**; **-gat•ed**; **-gat•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to make (something) less severe, harmful, or painful ▪ Emergency funds are being provided to help *mitigate* the effects of the disaster. ▪ *mitigate* a punishment ▪ medicines used to *mitigate* a patient's suffering — see also UNMITIGATED

– **mit•i•ga•tion** /ˌmɪtəˈgeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *mitigation* of suffering/punishment

mitigating *adj* — used to describe something (such as an unusual situation) that makes something (such as a crime or a mistake) seem less serious or deserving of blame; usually used in the phrase ***mitigating circumstances/factors*** ▪ His sentence was reduced because of *mitigating circumstances*. [=*extenuating circumstances*]

mitt /ˈmɪt/ *noun, pl* **mitts** [*count*]

1 : MITTEN ▪ children bundled up in hats and *mitts* — see also OVEN MITT

2 *baseball* **a** : a special type of heavy glove worn by the catcher ▪ a catcher's *mitt* **b** : a special type of glove worn by the first baseman ▪ a first baseman's *mitt*

3 *informal* : HAND ▪ He can hold anything in those big *mitts* of his.

mit•ten /ˈmɪtn̩/ *noun, pl* **-tens** [*count*] : a covering for the hand that has a separate part for the thumb only — compare GLOVE

– **mit•tened** /ˈmɪtn̩d/ *adj* ▪ a *mittened* hand [=a hand wearing a mitten]

[1]mix /ˈmɪks/ *verb* **mix•es**; **mixed**; **mix•ing**

1 a : to combine (two or more things) to make one thing that is the same throughout : to combine (two or more substances) to make a different substance [+ *obj*] *Mix* [=*blend*] flour and water (together) to make a paste. ▪ To make frosting for the cake, *mix* powdered sugar with a little milk and vanilla. ▪ You can make purple by *mixing* the colors red and blue. [*no obj*] Add the ingredients and *mix* [=*blend*] well. **b** [+ *obj*] : to add (something) to something else ▪ *Mix* some water with the flour to make a paste. — often + *in* or *into* ▪ I *mixed in* [=*added*] a little more sugar. ▪ Slowly *mix* [=*stir*] *in* the rice. ▪ *Mix* water *into* the flour to make a paste.

2 [*no obj*] : to be combined and become one thing that is the same throughout ▪ Oil will not *mix* with water. = Oil and water don't *mix*. ▪ Flour can *mix* [=*blend, combine*] with water to make a paste.

3 [+ *obj*] : to make or prepare (something, such as an alcoholic drink) by combining different things ▪ Please *mix* a drink for me. = Please *mix* me a drink.

4 [+ *obj*] : to make (a recording of music) by electronically putting sounds together from more than one source ▪ She *mixed* her own CD of dance music.

5 [+ *obj*] : to bring (different things) together ▪ His novel *mixes* humor with drama. ▪ Playing golf with clients is one way to ***mix business with pleasure*** [=to do something enjoyable that is related to your work]

6 [*no obj*] : to talk in a friendly way with different people and especially with strangers ▪ She *mixes* well in social situations. ▪ Our families ***don't mix*** [=don't get along] with each other.

7 [*no obj*] : to be able to be combined or put together in a way that has good results — used in negative statements ▪ Drinking (alcohol) and driving *don't mix*. [=you should not drive after you have been drinking alcohol] ▪ They claim that art and politics *do not mix*.

mix and match : to put different things (such as pieces of clothing) together in different ways ▪ She's able to *mix and match* her sweaters with different skirts to create new outfits. ▪ She buys clothing that she can *mix and match*.

mix it up (*US*) *or Brit* ***mix it*** *informal* : to fight or argue ▪ The two boxers started *mixing it up*. ▪ He loves to *mix it up* with his younger brothers.

mix up [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** ***mix (someone or something) up or mix up (someone or something)*** : to mistakenly think that (someone or something) is someone or something else ▪ Those two women look so much alike—I always *mix* them *up*. [=I never know who is who] ▪ He got the days *mixed up* [=*confused*] and thought the meeting was today. ▪ I always *mix up* the times when my classes start. **2** ***mix (something) up or mix up (something)*** : to mistakenly put (something) in a place where something else should be ▪ I accidentally *mixed up* the two files. [=I put each of the files in the place where the other one should have gone] — often + *with* ▪ Did my homework get *mixed up with* your papers? **3** ***mix (someone) up or mix up (someone)*** **a** : to cause (someone) to be involved in a usually dangerous or improper activity or situation — usu-

ally used as *(be/get) mixed up in* ▪ He *got mixed up in* a plan to destroy the government. [=he became involved in a plan to destroy the government] **b :** to cause (someone) to become involved with a particular group of people and especially with people who cause trouble — usually used as *(be/get) mixed up with* ▪ She *was mixed up with* the wrong crowd. ▪ teenage boys *getting mixed up with* gangs — see also MIXED-UP, MIX-UP

[2]mix *noun, pl* **mixes**

1 : a dry mixture of ingredients that is sold in one package and used for making something (such as a type of food) [*count*] a cake *mix* ▪ a new brand of soup *mixes* [*noncount*] We bought two boxes of muffin *mix*. ▪ a bag of cement *mix* [=material that forms cement when you add water to it]

2 [*singular*] **:** a combination of different kinds of things : MIXTURE ▪ a snack *mix* containing pretzels, nuts, and raisins — often + *of* ▪ We worked on finding the right *mix of* food, music, and decorations for the wedding. ▪ They talked to each other in a *mix of* English and Spanish. ▪ an attractive *mix of* red, orange, and yellow flowers

mixed /ˈmɪkst/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* **:** made of different kinds of things mixed together or combined ▪ a can of *mixed* nuts ▪ bags of *mixed* candy ▪ We ate salads of *mixed* greens.

2 a : including or involving people of different races or religions ▪ They live in a *mixed* neighborhood. ▪ She's of *mixed* African and European ancestry. ▪ children of *mixed* race/races ▪ people of *mixed* racial origin/ancestry ▪ a racially *mixed* couple **b :** including or involving people of both sexes ▪ She went to a *mixed* school. [=a school for both boys and girls] ▪ a *mixed* chorus ▪ playing ***mixed doubles*** in tennis [=a game of doubles in which each team has a man and a woman] ✧ When people are ***in mixed company***, they are with both men and women. ▪ The women never spoke of sex or pregnancy *in mixed company*. [=when men were present]

3 : both good and bad, favorable and unfavorable, etc. ▪ The play received *mixed* reviews. = The play's reviews were *mixed*. [=some critics liked the play, while other critics did not] ▪ His decision got a *mixed* reaction from the family. ▪ The experiment got *mixed* results. ✧ When people have ***mixed emotions*** or ***mixed feelings*** about something, they have both good and bad thoughts or feelings about it. ▪ He had *mixed emotions* [=he was both happy and sad] about the end of his trip. ▪ I'm having *mixed feelings* about this class.

mixed messages/signals ✧ Someone gives *mixed messages* or *mixed signals* by showing a thought or feeling and then showing another very different thought or feeling. ▪ I don't know if he likes me; he keeps giving me *mixed messages*. ▪ She's sending *mixed signals* about her feelings.

mixed bag *noun* [*singular*]

1 : a collection of different kinds of things — often + *of* ▪ The movie has a *mixed bag of* characters. ▪ We're working with a *mixed bag of* old and new ideas.

2 : something that has both good and bad qualities or parts ▪ His performance was a *mixed bag*.

mixed blessing *noun, pl* ~ **-ings** [*count*] **:** something that is good in some ways and bad in other ways ▪ He says that computers are a *mixed blessing* because sometimes they help and sometimes they create problems. ▪ Living next to your in-laws can be a *mixed blessing*.

mixed drink *noun, pl* ~ **drinks** [*count*] **:** an alcoholic drink made with two or more ingredients ▪ a *mixed drink* of rum and soda

mixed economy *noun, pl* ~ **-mies** [*count*] **:** an economy in which some companies are owned by the government and other companies are not

mixed marriage *noun, pl* ~ **-riages :** marriage between two people of different races or religions [*count*] children of *mixed marriages* [*noncount*] a culture in which *mixed marriage* is rare

mixed metaphor *noun, pl* ~ **-phors** [*count*] **:** a metaphor that combines different images or ideas in a way that is foolish or illogical ▪ "If we want to get ahead we'll have to iron out the remaining bottlenecks" is an example of a *mixed metaphor*.

mixed–up /ˈmɪkstˈʌp/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal*

1 : confused and usually emotionally troubled **:** not capable of making good decisions about life ▪ They're just a bunch of crazy, *mixed-up* kids.

2 : confusing, difficult to understand, and filled with problems ▪ This is a crazy, *mixed-up* world we live in. ▪ He has *mixed-up* ideas about our past. — often written as two separate words when used following a verb ▪ She's a nice person, but her life is really *mixed up*. — see also *mix up* at [1]MIX

mix·er /ˈmɪksɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a machine used for mixing things ▪ a handheld *mixer* ▪ Using an electric *mixer*, blend the cake batter on medium (speed) for two minutes. ▪ a cement *mixer* [=a large machine that keeps cement wet and soft by turning until the cement is used] — see picture at KITCHEN

2 : a drink (such as soda) that does not contain alcohol and that is used in an alcoholic mixed drink ▪ Orange juice is her favorite *mixer*.

3 : someone who controls the recording of sounds (such as the words and music) that go with a movie or television show ▪ the sound *mixer*

4 ✧ A ***good mixer*** is someone who is comfortable in social situations and can talk easily with other people. A ***poor mixer*** is uncomfortable or awkward in social situations. ▪ For a politician, she was not a very *good mixer*. ▪ He was shy and a *poor mixer*.

5 *chiefly US* **:** a social gathering to help people in a group meet each other in a friendly and informal way ▪ an informal *mixer*

mixing bowl *noun, pl* ~ **bowls** [*count*] **:** a large bowl used in cooking for mixing ingredients — see picture at KITCHEN

mix·ture /ˈmɪkstʃɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tures**

1 [*count*] **:** something made by combining two or more ingredients ▪ Stir the sugar and butter until the *mixture* is light and fluffy. ▪ Now add eggs to the *mixture*. ▪ Pour the cake *mixture* into a well-greased pan and bake. — often + *of* ▪ The chicken was marinated in a *mixture of* oil and spices. ▪ The horses were fed a *mixture of* grass and oats.

2 [*count*] **:** a combination of different things — + *of* ▪ The dog's coat is a *mixture of* yellow, brown, and black fur. ▪ We were feeling a *mixture of* fear and excitement. ▪ They talked to each other in a *mixture of* English and Spanish.

3 [*noncount*] **:** the act of mixing two or more things together — + *of* ▪ a society formed by the gradual *mixture of* different cultures

mix–up /ˈmɪksˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*] **:** a mistake caused by confusion about something ▪ Because of a *mix-up* [=*mistake, error*] at the hotel, we were overcharged for our stay. ▪ The *mix-ups* nearly cost him his job. ▪ I thought you were someone else. Sorry for the *mix-up*. [=*misunderstanding, confusion*] — see also *mix up* at [1]MIX

ml *abbr* milliliter

mm *abbr* millimeter

MN *abbr* Minnesota

mne·mon·ic /nɪˈmɑːnɪk/ *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] **:** something (such as a word, a sentence, or a song) that helps people remember something (such as a rule or a list of names) ▪ HOMES is used as a *mnemonic* for the names of the Great Lakes: *H*uron, *O*ntario, *M*ichigan, *E*rie, and *S*uperior.

– **mnemonic** *adj* ▪ a *mnemonic* device

mo /ˈmoʊ/ *noun* [*singular*] *chiefly Brit, informal* **:** a short time ▪ Hang on a *mo* [=*moment*]: who did you say you'd seen?

Mo. *abbr* Monday

[1]MO /ˈɛmˈoʊ/ *noun, pl* **MOs** [*count*] **:** a usual way of performing a crime : MODUS OPERANDI ▪ two thieves with very different *MOs*

[2]MO *abbr* Missouri

[1]moan /ˈmoʊn/ *verb* **moans; moaned; moan·ing**

1 [*no obj*] **:** to make a long, low sound because of pain, unhappiness, or physical pleasure ▪ The wounded soldier *moaned* in/with pain. ▪ The crowd *moaned* [=*groaned*] as the other team scored another goal. ▪ He *moaned* with pleasure as she rubbed his back.

2 a [*no obj*] **:** to express unhappiness about something : COMPLAIN ▪ We were all *moaning* about the cold, rainy weather. ▪ He's always *moaning* about his salary. ▪ The children were ***moaning and groaning*** all morning, but their mother would not let them go outside. ▪ I'm tired of all his *moaning and groaning* about his salary. **b** [+ *obj*] **:** to say (something) in a way that shows pain or unhappiness ▪ "But I don't want to go," *moaned* the boy. ▪ "Oh, my stomach hurts," she *moaned*. = She *moaned* that her stomach hurt.

3 [*no obj*] **:** to make a long, low sound ▪ The wind *moaned* in the trees.

– **moan·er** /ˈmoʊnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ He dismisses his critics as a bunch of *moaners*. [=people who are always unhappy or complaining about something]

[2]moan *noun, pl* **moans** [*count*]

1 : a long, low sound that someone makes because of pain,

unhappiness, or physical pleasure▪ She let out a long, deep *moan*. ▪ a *moan* of despair/pleasure ▪ a low/feeble/weak *moan*

2 : a long, low sound▪ the *moan* of the wind ▪ the *moan* of the car's engine

3 *Brit, informal* **:** a complaint about something▪ He's always ***having a moan***[=*complaining*] about his job.

moat /ˈmoʊt/ *noun, pl* **moats** [*count*] **:** a deep, wide ditch that is usually filled with water and that goes around the walls of a place (such as a castle) to protect it from being attacked

[1]mob /ˈmɑːb/ *noun, pl* **mobs**

1 [*count*] **:** a large group or crowd of people who are angry or violent or difficult to control▪ The angry *mob* smashed store windows and attacked people on the streets. ▪ The police had to be called in to handle/disperse the growing/gathering *mob*. ▪ violent *mobs* — see also LYNCH MOB, MOB SCENE

2 [*count*] *informal* **:** a large number of people — usually + *of* ▪ On our walk, we were passed by a *mob of* bicycle riders. — often plural▪ *Mobs of* teenagers filled the room. ▪ The team was greeted by *mobs of* excited fans.

3 ***the mob*** *or* ***the Mob*** *informal* **:** a secret organized group of criminals▪ *The Mob* [=*the Mafia*] controlled most businesses in the city. ▪ He was jailed for his dealings with *the Mob*. — often used as *mob* before another noun▪ Their family had *mob* [=*Mafia*] connections. ▪ a ***mob boss***[=someone who controls part of an organized criminal group] — see also MOBSTER

4 ***the mob*** *old-fashioned* **:** the people of a society who are poor and uneducated▪ politicians trying to keep *the mob* happy ✧ This use of *the mob* is now usually considered insulting.

[2]mob *verb* **mobs; mobbed; mob•bing** [+ *obj*]

1 *of a group of people* **:** to move close to (someone) in an excited way **:** to crowd around (someone) in an aggressive, excited, or annoying way▪ The actor's fans *mobbed* him wherever he went. — often used as *(be) mobbed*▪ The actor *was mobbed* by fans wherever he went. ▪ I walked into the room and *was* immediately *mobbed* by small children.

2 : to come together in (a place) with many other people▪ Shoppers *mobbed* the stores during the holidays. — often used as *(be) mobbed*▪ The stores *were mobbed* by/with customers.

– mobbed *adj*▪ The stores were *mobbed* [=very crowded] today! ▪ *mobbed* airports

[1]mo•bile /ˈmoʊbəl, ˈmoʊˌbajəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 a : able to move from one place to another▪ the age at which most babies become *mobile* [=able to crawl or walk] ▪ The doctors say she will be *mobile* [=able to walk] again when her broken leg heals. **b :** able to move with the use of vehicles (such as trucks and airplanes)▪ Their armies are now fully *mobile*. ▪ *mobile* fighting forces ▪ *mobile* troops

2 : able to be moved▪ Computers have become more *mobile* [=*portable*] in recent years. ▪ *mobile* hospital equipment ▪ The news station has two *mobile* television units [=trucks or vans with television equipment] for reporting news directly from where events happen. ▪ a *mobile* kitchen that helps bring food to homeless people ▪ *mobile* health clinics ▪ a *mobile* crime laboratory

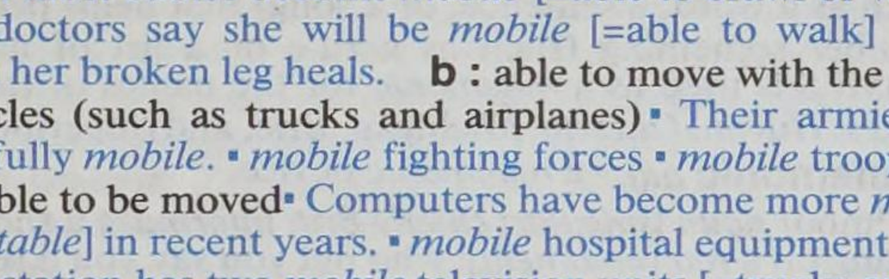
3 : able to move from one level of a society to another▪ socially *mobile* workers — see also UPWARDLY MOBILE

[2]mo•bile /ˈmoʊˌbiːl, *Brit* ˈməʊbaɪl/ *noun, pl* **-biles** [*count*]

1 : a work of art or a decoration that is hung from above and that has attached shapes or figures that move easily in the air ▪ They hung a *mobile* over the baby's bed.

2 *Brit, informal* **:** CELL PHONE▪ Even if I'm out of the office you can reach me on my *mobile*.

mobile home *noun, pl* **~ homes** [*count*] **:** a house that is built in a factory and then moved to the place where people will live in it — compare MOTOR HOME



mobile home

mobile library *noun, pl* **~ -braries** [*count*] *Brit* **:** BOOKMOBILE

mobile phone *noun, pl* **~ phones** [*count*] **:** CELL PHONE

mo•bil•i•ty /moʊˈbɪlәti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the ability or tendency to move from one position or situation to another usually better one▪ Social *mobility* is often affected by a person's birth, income, and education. ▪ The degree of economic *mobility* is different in different societies. ▪ the career *mobility* of women ▪ the geographic *mobility* of a country's workers [=the tendency of workers to move from one place to another]

2 : ability to move quickly and easily▪ The army has improved its weapons and increased its *mobility* since the last war. ▪ He was a great football player known for his *mobility* on the field. ▪ She lost *mobility* in her left hand. ▪ elderly people with limited *mobility*

mo•bi•lize *also Brit* **mo•bi•lise** /ˈmoʊbəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-liz•es; -lized; -liz•ing**

1 a [+ *obj*] **:** to bring (people) together for action▪ The President *mobilized* [=*rallied*] his supporters. ▪ They couldn't *mobilize* enough support to pass the new law. **b** [*no obj*] **:** to come together for action▪ Several groups have *mobilized* to oppose the proposed new law. ▪ They have the ability to *mobilize* quickly.

2 [+ *obj*] **:** to make (soldiers, an army, etc.) ready for war▪ The government had to *mobilize* the army quickly. ▪ More than 10,000 troops were *mobilized* for war. ▪ *mobilizing* the nation's resources

– mo•bi•li•za•tion *also Brit* **mo•bi•li•sa•tion** /ˌmoʊbәlәˈzeɪʃәn, *Brit* ˌməʊbəˌlaɪˈzeɪʃәn/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*]▪ The army carried out a full-scale *mobilization*.

mob scene *noun, pl* **~ scenes** [*count*] *US* **:** a place or situation where a crowd of people behave in a violent or uncontrolled way▪ The peaceful protest quickly turned into a *mob scene* as protesters began fighting the police. ; *also* **:** a very crowded place or situation▪ The store became a real *mob scene*.

mob•ster /ˈmɑːbstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sters** [*count*] **:** someone who is part of a secret organized group of criminals **:** a member of the Mob▪ a reputed *mobster*

moc•ca•sin /ˈmɑːkәsәn/ *noun, pl* **-sins** [*count*] **:** a flat shoe that is made of soft leather and is similar to a shoe originally worn by some Native Americans — see picture at SHOE; see also WATER MOCCASIN

mo•cha /ˈmoʊkә, *Brit* ˈmɒkә/ *noun, pl* **-chas** [*count, noncount*] **:** a drink that is a mixture of coffee and chocolate▪ a cup of *mocha*

[1]mock /ˈmɑːk/ *verb* **mocks; mocked; mock•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to laugh at or make fun of (someone or something) especially by copying an action or a way of behaving or speaking ▪ The boys *mocked* him for showing fear. ▪ They *mocked* his cries for help. [=they imitated his cries for help in an exaggerated way that was meant to ridicule him] ▪ Other children would *mock* her accent. [=would make fun of the way she spoke by copying it in an exaggerated way]

2 : to criticize and laugh at (someone or something) for being bad, worthless, or unimportant▪ He *mocks* art only because he doesn't understand it. ▪ They continue to *mock* the idea of a new government. ▪ We are being *mocked* for our religious beliefs. ▪ You can *mock* me as much as you like, but I'm going to do it anyway.

– mock•er /ˈmɑːkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]▪ *mockers* of poetry **– mocking** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]▪ *mocking* words ▪ a *mocking* crowd **– mock•ing•ly** /ˈmɑːkɪŋli/ *adv* ▪ They laughed at him *mockingly*.

[2]mock *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : not based on real or honest feelings▪ "I'd love to go," he said with a *mock* [=*feigned, fake*] smile. ▪ We stared at him in *mock* surprise. ▪ *mock* anger

2 : done or performed to look like the real thing▪ Two boys started a *mock* [=*simulated*] fight in the hallway. ▪ Every summer, our history club performs *mock* battles to relive our country's greatest war. ▪ a *mock* trial [=a fake legal trial used for education and practice] ▪ a *mock* election

[3]mock *noun, pl* **mocks** [*count*] *Brit* **:** an exam that does not count and that is done to practice for a real exam **:** a mock exam — usually plural▪ He did so well on the *mocks* that I'm sure he'll pass the real ones.

mock•ery /ˈmɑːkәri/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] **:** behavior or speech that makes fun of someone or something in a hurtful way **:** mocking behavior or speech▪ The bright orange house was an object of *mockery* on our street. [=people mocked the house; people laughed at

it and criticized it] ▪ His kind of personality invites *mockery*. ▪ the children's cruel *mockery* of each other

2 [*singular*] : a bad or useless copy of something ▪ The judge's decisions are a *mockery* of real justice. [=the judge's decisions are very unjust] ✧ If you ***make a mockery of*** something, you make it seem ridiculous or useless. ▪ The judge's decisions have *made a mockery of* the legal system. ▪ He's *made a mockery of* our marriage.

mock·ing·bird /ˈmɑːkɪŋˌbɚd/ *noun, pl* **-birds** [*count*] : a North American bird that sings loudly and copies the songs of other birds — see color picture on page C9

mock turtleneck *noun, pl* ~ **-necks** [*count*] *US* : a knit shirt or sweater with a high collar that goes all the way around your neck and that is not folded down — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *turtleneck*

mock–up /ˈmɑːkˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*] : a full-sized model of something (such as a boat or a car) that is used for studying, testing, or showing its features

mod·al /ˈmoʊdl̩/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] *grammar* : MODAL VERB

modal verb *noun, pl* ~ **verbs** [*count*] *grammar* : a verb (such as *can, could, shall, should, ought to, will*, or *would*) that is usually used with another verb to express ideas such as possibility, necessity, and permission — called also *modal, modal auxiliary, modal auxiliary verb*

mod cons /ˌmɑːdˈkɑːnz/ *noun* [*plural*] *Brit, informal* : the equipment and features that are found in a modern home and that make life easier and more comfortable ▪ Well, I see your new house has got all the *mod cons* you'd expect: a washing machine, a dishwasher, central heating . . . ✧ *Mod cons* is taken from the phrase "modern conveniences."

mode /ˈmoʊd/ *noun, pl* **modes** [*count*]

1 *formal* **a** : a particular form or type *of* something (such as transportation or behavior) ▪ We're changing the factory's *mode* [=*method*] *of* operation in order to save money. ▪ Technology has created new *modes of* communication. ▪ different *modes of* thought ▪ buses, trains, airplanes, and other ***modes of transportation*** **b** : a particular way *of* doing something ▪ We're using a new *mode* [=*method*] *of* teaching. ▪ a different *mode* [=*way*] *of* living ▪ new *modes of* thinking

2 : the state in which a machine does a particular function ▪ The VCR has two different recording *modes*. ▪ When taking pictures indoors, put the camera in flash *mode*.

3 *informal* : a specified way of thinking, feeling, or acting ▪ Let's get into work *mode*. [=let's get ready to work] ▪ When I'm in my creative *mode* [=when I'm feeling creative], I can write for hours. ▪ Reading helps me get into my relaxation *mode*. ▪ He goes into attack *mode* [=he becomes very hostile and aggressive] whenever his decisions are questioned.

– see also À LA MODE

[1]mod·el /ˈmɑːdl̩/ *noun, pl* **-els** [*count*]

1 : a usually small copy of something ▪ She's building a *model* of the Earth for science class. ▪ *models* of famous buildings ▪ a plastic *model* of the human heart ▪ a ***scale model*** [=a small but exact copy] of a ship

2 : a particular type or version of a product (such as a car or computer) ▪ We've improved on last year's *model*, making the car safer and easier to control. ▪ He bought one of the old 1965 *models*. ▪ We couldn't afford one of the fancy TVs and had to buy the standard *model*.

3 : a set of ideas and numbers that describe the past, present, or future state of something (such as an economy or a business) ▪ a mathematical *model* ▪ We've developed a computer *model* of the economy to predict what will happen in the future. ▪ Companies are developing new business *models*.

4 a : something or someone that is a very good example *of* something ▪ The city is now a *model of* safety and cleanliness. [=the city is now very safe and clean] ▪ He is a *model of* politeness. [=he is very polite] ▪ The country was the *model of* a peaceful nation for over 50 years. **b** : something or someone that deserves to be copied by others ▪ The country's economy is a *model* for the rest of the world. ▪ Her work has become a *model* to/for other writers. ▪ These soldiers serve as *models* for their country. — see also ROLE MODEL

5 : someone who is paid to wear clothing, jewelry, etc., in photographs, fashion shows, etc., so that people will see and want to buy what is being worn ▪ a fashion *model* ▪ male *models* ▪ She's a *model* turned actress. [=a model who later became an actress] — see also SUPERMODEL

6 : someone whose image is painted, photographed, etc., by an artist ▪ The same *model* sat/posed for several of his paintings. ▪ drawings of nude *models* ▪ an artist's *model*

[2]model *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : deserving to be copied by others : very good or excellent ▪ They're all *model* students. ▪ He's a *model* husband. ▪ Our university has a *model* program for training its athletes.

2 — used to describe something that is a small copy of something larger ▪ a *model* airplane ▪ He'll play with his *model* trains for hours.

[3]model *verb* **-els**; *US* **-eled** *or Brit* **-elled**; *US* **-el·ing** *or Brit* **-el·ling**

1 [+ *obj*] : to design (something) so that it is similar to something else — + *on* or (*chiefly US*) *after* ▪ They *modeled* their educational system *on* the U.S. system. [=they used the U.S. system as a model when they created their educational system] ▪ His best dish is closely *modeled on* his mother's recipe. [=is based on and very similar to his mother's recipe] ▪ The church was *modeled after* an earlier French design.

2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to make a small copy of (something) : to create a model of (something) ▪ The faces of the gods were *modeled* in white stone. **b** : to make something by forming or shaping clay or some other material ▪ *modeling* [=*molding*] figures in/from clay = *modeling* clay into figures

3 : to wear clothing, jewelry, etc., in photographs, fashion shows, etc., so that people will see and want to buy what you are wearing [+ *obj*] They're *modeling* this year's new spring fashions. ▪ She got a job *modeling* shoes for a catalog company. ▪ a fashion model who has angered animal lovers by *modeling* fur coats [*no obj*] She *models* [=she works as a fashion model] for the world's most successful modeling agency.

4 [*no obj*] : to be a model for an artist : to be painted or photographed by an artist ▪ She agreed to *model* for him and appeared in many of his most famous works.

model yourself on *or chiefly US* ***model yourself after*** : to try to be like and to behave like (someone you admire) ▪ She *models herself on* the leaders that came before her. ▪ Children often *model themselves after* their parents.

– **mod·el·er** (*US*) *or Brit* **mod·el·ler** /ˈmɑːdl̩ɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a ship *modeler* [=someone who makes small copies of ships]

mod·el·ing (*US*) *or Brit* **mod·el·ling** /ˈmɑːdl̩ɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the work of a fashion model : the job of displaying things for sale usually by wearing them and being photographed ▪ She hoped *modeling* would help start her acting career. — often used before another noun ▪ a *modeling* agency ▪ his *modeling* career

2 : the act or activity of making small copies of things (such as planes, trains, etc.) : the hobby of making models ▪ ship *modeling*

3 : a process in which computers use a set of ideas and numbers to describe the past, present, or future state of something (such as an economy or a business) ▪ Computer *modeling* helps scientists understand the Earth's weather systems. ▪ economic *modeling*

mo·dem /ˈmoʊdəm/ *noun, pl* **-dems** [*count*] : a device that changes the form of electric signals so that information can be sent through telephone lines from one computer to another computer ▪ a high-speed *modem*

[1]mod·er·ate /ˈmɑːdərət/ *adj*

1 a : average in size or amount : neither too much nor too little ▪ Her doctor recommended *moderate* exercise. ▪ There were *moderate* levels of chemicals in the lake. ▪ drinking *moderate* amounts of coffee ▪ Most of these medicines relieve mild to *moderate* pain. ▪ a family of *moderate* income ▪ a book of *moderate* length ▪ a *moderate* distance **b** : neither very good nor very bad ▪ The group met with only *moderate* success. ▪ a writer of *moderate* talent

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not expensive : not too high in price ▪ The hotel offers comfortable rooms at *moderate* prices.

3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or expressing political beliefs that are neither very liberal nor very conservative ▪ Both *moderate* Democrats and *moderate* Republicans can agree on this new law. ▪ She holds a *moderate* position on the subject of taxes. ▪ The group is in need of more *moderate* voices. [=the group needs more members who do not express extreme ideas]

4 [*more* ~; *most* ~] **a** : avoiding behavior that goes beyond what is normal, healthy, or acceptable ▪ a *moderate* eater [=a person who does not eat too much] ▪ a *moderate* diet ▪ He believes that *moderate* drinking is healthy. ▪ a person of *moderate* habits **b** : not showing strong emotions or excitement ▪ She expressed herself in *moderate* [=*calm, reasonable*] language.

[2]mod•er•ate /ˈmɑːdərət/ *noun, pl* **-ates** [*count*] : a person whose political ideas are not extreme : a person who has moderate opinions or is a member of a moderate political group ▪ *Moderates* from both political parties have agreed on an economic plan.

[3]mod•er•ate /ˈmɑːdəˌreɪt/ *verb* **-ates; -at•ed; -at•ing**

1 : to make (something) less harsh, strong, or severe or to become less harsh, strong, or severe [+ *obj*] The protesters have been unwilling to *moderate* their demands. [*no obj*] The wind *moderated* [=*lessened*] after the storm.

2 : to guide a discussion or direct a meeting that involves a group of people [*no obj*] She *moderates* at our office meetings. [+ *obj*] She *moderates* our discussions so that we don't argue or talk at the same time. ▪ *moderate* a debate

mod•er•ate•ly /ˈmɑːdərətli/ *adv*

1 : not completely or extremely : to a moderate degree or extent ▪ a *moderately* [=*fairly, rather, somewhat*] sweet wine ▪ a *moderately* hot day ▪ The medicine is only *moderately* effective against coughs. ▪ Cook the chicken over *moderately* high heat for three minutes.

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : in a way that is not too expensive : in a moderate way ▪ We tried to find a more *moderately* priced hotel. ▪ *moderately* priced wines

mod•er•a•tion /ˌmɑːdəˈreɪʃən/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being reasonable and avoiding behavior, speech, etc., that is extreme or that goes beyond what is normal or acceptable ▪ She expressed her opinions with *moderation*. = She showed *moderation* in the expression of her opinions. [=she expressed her opinions moderately] ▪ The organization is encouraging *moderation* among the world's leaders. ▪ a diet of *moderation* [=a moderate diet] ▪ He has been a ***voice of moderation***. [=a person saying things that are reasonable and moderate]

2 : a decrease in something that is strong or severe — often + *in* [*singular*] The weather has been extremely hot, but the forecast calls for a slight *moderation in* temperatures over the next several days. [=temperatures will become slightly cooler] [*noncount*] We should be seeing some *moderation in* the growth of the economy.

in moderation : in a way that is reasonable and not excessive : in a moderate way ▪ She believes in doing things *in moderation*. ▪ Some people say that drinking alcohol *in moderation* can be good for you.

mod•er•a•tor /ˈmɑːdəˌreɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : someone who leads a discussion in a group and tells each person when to speak : someone who moderates a meeting or discussion ▪ The *moderator* allowed audience members to ask the governor questions. ▪ She acts as the *moderator* in our office meetings.

[1]mod•ern /ˈmɑːdɚn/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* **a** : of or relating to the present time or the recent past : happening, existing, or developing at a time near the present time ▪ ancient and *modern* history ▪ He talked about the role of television in *modern* [=*contemporary*] politics. ▪ The country's *modern* [=*present*] government was formed over 100 years ago. ▪ The earthquake was one of the worst disasters in *modern* [=*recent*] times. ▪ Water pollution is a growing problem in the *modern* world. ▪ the *modern* American family [=the typical American family living today] ▪ He's known as the father of *modern* medicine. **b** *or* ***Modern*** : of or relating to the current or most recent period of a language ▪ The English that was spoken by William Shakespeare is very different from the *modern* English spoken today. ▪ She is learning *Modern* Greek.

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : based on or using the newest information, methods, or technology ▪ We'll need to have *modern* [=*up-to-date*] plumbing and wiring installed in the old house before we can move in. ▪ They live in one of the most *modern* cities in the world. ▪ *modern* methods of communication including e-mail and the Internet

3 [*more ~; most ~*] : of or relating to a style or way of thinking that is new and different ▪ She cut her long hair for a *modern* look. ▪ He made his old-fashioned apartment look more *modern* by changing the color of the walls and buying new furniture. ▪ Their latest movie is a *modern* version of a classic children's story. ▪ She has *modern* ideas about dating and marriage. — opposite OLD-FASHIONED

4 : of or relating to forms of art (such as dance, music, and architecture) in which the styles used are newer and very different from the older and more traditional styles ▪ She loves both ballet and *modern* dance. ▪ a combination of classical and *modern* architecture ▪ a museum of *modern* art

– mod•ern•ness /ˈmɑːdɚnnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *modernness* of an artist's style

[2]modern *noun, pl* **-erns** [*count*] : a modern person: such as **a** : a person who has modern ideas, tastes, or attitudes — usually plural ▪ furniture designed for young *moderns* **b** : a modern artist or writer — usually plural ▪ comparing the art of the ancients and the *moderns*

mod•ern–day /ˈmɑːdɚnˈdeɪ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : existing today ▪ problems facing most *modern-day* families ▪ *modern-day* China — often used to indicate that someone or something of the present is similar to someone or something of the past ▪ The two lovers are a *modern-day* [=*latter-day*] Romeo and Juliet. ▪ He's been called a *modern-day* saint. ▪ the *modern-day* equivalent of slavery

mod•ern•ism /ˈmɑːdɚˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a style of art, architecture, literature, etc., that uses ideas and methods which are very different from those used in the past — compare POSTMODERNISM

– mod•ern•ist /ˈmɑːdɚnɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ a leading *modernist* **– modernist** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ a *modernist* painter **– mod•ern•is•tic** /ˌmɑːdɚˈnɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ a somewhat *modernistic* style

mo•der•ni•ty /məˈdɚnəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the quality of being modern ▪ the *modernity* of an artist's style : a modern way of living or thinking ▪ a traditional town that has resisted *modernity*

mod•ern•ize *also Brit* **mod•ern•ise** /ˈmɑːdɚˌnaɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es; -ized; -iz•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) modern and more suited to present styles or needs ▪ We're *modernizing* our kitchen with a new oven, refrigerator, and dishwasher. ▪ The country recently announced plans to begin *modernizing* its army. ▪ The school needs a building with *modernized* classrooms.

2 [*no obj*] : to become modern : to begin using the newest information, methods, or technology ▪ Older companies will need to *modernize* quickly if they are to survive in today's economy.

– mod•ern•i•za•tion *also Brit* **mod•ern•i•sa•tion** /ˌmɑːdɚnəˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌmɒdəˌnaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a company in need of *modernization*

mod•est /ˈmɑːdəst/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : not very large in size or amount ▪ Despite its *modest* [=somewhat small] size, the city has many things to offer tourists. ▪ They own a *modest* home near the beach. ▪ She enjoyed *modest* success with her singing career. ▪ He earns a *modest* income. ▪ We live on a *modest* budget. ▪ New cars are now available at relatively *modest* prices. ▪ He has only a *modest* amount of knowledge on the subject. ▪ It is a book of only *modest* importance.

2 *approving* : not too proud or confident about yourself or your abilities : not showing or feeling great or excessive pride ▪ She's very *modest* about her achievements. ▪ Don't be so *modest*. Your performance was wonderful! ▪ "I'm not a hero. I was just doing my job," he said in his characteristically *modest* way. ▪ He is unusually *modest* for a man who is so famous and successful. — opposite IMMODEST

3 a *of clothing* : not showing too much of a person's body ▪ She preferred wearing more *modest* swimsuits. ▪ In some countries, women must wear very *modest* clothing in public. **b** : shy about showing your body especially in a sexual way : preferring to wear modest clothing ▪ a *modest* young woman — opposite IMMODEST

– mod•est•ly *adv* ▪ Our business has been *modestly* successful. ▪ a *modestly* priced car ▪ a *modestly* dressed young woman ▪ She *modestly* refused to accept credit for the team's success.

mod•es•ty /ˈmɑːdəsti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the quality of being modest: such as **a** : the quality of not being too proud or confident about yourself or your abilities ▪ She accepted the award with *modesty*. ▪ He is known for his *modesty*, an uncommon characteristic for a politician. ▪ There was no false *modesty* in her victory speech. ✧ The phrases ***in all modesty*** and (*US*) ***with all modesty*** are used to stress that a statement you are making about yourself is true even if it sounds like something said because of pride. ▪ *In all modesty*, I don't know anyone who could beat me at tennis. ▪ I'll admit *with all modesty* that I have had a very successful career. **b** : the quality of behaving and especially dressing in ways that do not attract sexual attention ▪ the young woman's *modesty* ▪ the *modesty* of her clothing

mo•di•cum /ˈmɑːdɪkəm/ *noun* [*singular*] *formal* : a small amount — + *of* ▪ The group had a *modicum of* success in the

early 1990s. ▪ Anyone with even a *modicum of* intelligence would understand. ▪ He told a story that didn't have a *modicum of* truth to it.

mod•i•fi•ca•tion /ˌmɑ:dəfəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*noncount*] : the act or process of changing parts of something : the act or process of modifying something ▪ The program can be used on all computers without *modification*. — often + *of* ▪ The bad weather required *modification of* our travel plans.

2 [*count*] : a change in something (such as a system or style) ▪ They passed the law with only a few minor/slight/small *modifications*. ▪ The weather required some major/minor *modifications* to our travel plans. — often + *of* or *to* ▪ A few *modifications of* the design might be necessary. ▪ We made some *modifications to* the original plan.

mod•i•fi•er /ˈmɑ:dəˌfajɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *grammar* : a word (such as an adjective or adverb) or phrase that describes another word or group of words ▪ In "a red hat," the adjective "red" is a *modifier* describing the noun "hat." ▪ In "They were talking loudly," the adverb "loudly" is a *modifier* of the verb "talking."

mod•i•fy /ˈmɑ:dəˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to change some parts of (something) while not changing other parts ▪ We can help you *modify* an existing home or build a new one. ▪ He *modified* the recipe by using oil instead of butter. ▪ *modify* a plan ▪ She has *modified* her views on the matter. ▪ The design was *modified* to add another window. ▪ We played a *modified* version of our favorite game.

2 *grammar* : to limit or describe the meaning of (a word or group of words) ▪ Adjectives usually *modify* nouns, and adverbs usually *modify* verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. ▪ In the phrase "a red hat," the adjective "red" *modifies* the noun "hat."

mod•ish /ˈmoʊdɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : fashionable or stylish in a modern way ▪ He wore a *modish* gray suit and hat. ▪ a *modish* writer

– **mod•ish•ly** *adv* ▪ a *modishly* dressed woman

mod•u•lar /ˈmɑ:ʤələɚ/ *adj* : having parts that can be connected or combined in different ways ▪ In many offices, desks are separated by *modular* walls that can be moved around. ▪ a factory that produces *modular* homes ▪ *modular* buildings ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) This is a *modular* course of three components, and students can take those three modules in any order.

mod•u•late /ˈmɑ:ʤəˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates**; **-lat•ed**; **-lat•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to change the sound of (your voice) by making it quieter, higher, lower, etc. ▪ Please *modulate* [=*soften, tone down*] your voice. ▪ Because she doesn't *modulate* her voice, she sounds the same when she's excited as when she's sad.

2 [*no obj*] *music* : to move gradually from one key to another ▪ The music quickly *modulates* from its original key, changing the mood of the song.

3 [+ *obj*] : to change or adjust (something) so that it exists in a balanced or proper amount ▪ These organs *modulate* [=*regulate*] the amount of salt in the body.

– **mod•u•la•tion** /ˌmɑ:ʤəˈleɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*]

mod•ule /ˈmɑ:ˌʤu:l, *Brit* ˈmɒdju:l/ *noun, pl* **-ules** [*count*]

1 : one of a set of parts that can be connected or combined to build or complete something ▪ factories that build engines, transmissions, brakes, and other *modules* for cars ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) This is a modular course of three components, and students can take those three *modules* in any order.

2 : a part of a computer or computer program that does a particular job ▪ special software *modules* ▪ a memory *module* for storing information

3 : a part of a space vehicle that can work alone ▪ the spacecraft's ***command module*** [=the main part of a spacecraft] ▪ a ***lunar module*** [=a space vehicle used to land on the moon]

mo•dus ope•ran•di /ˌmoʊdəsˌɑ:pəˈrændi/ *noun* [*singular*] *formal* : a usual way of doing something; *especially* : the usual way that a particular criminal performs a crime ▪ the murderer's *modus operandi* ✧ *Modus operandi* is a Latin phrase that means "method of operation" in English. — called also *MO*

mo•dus vi•ven•di /ˌmoʊdəsvɪˈvɛndi/ *noun* [*singular*] *formal* : an arrangement that helps people, groups, or countries work together peacefully even though they do not agree with each other ▪ The two nations developed a *modus vivendi* in order to avoid war. ✧ *Modus vivendi* is a Latin phrase that means "manner of living" in English.

mog•gy *also* **mog•gie** /ˈmɑ:gi/ *noun, pl* **-gies** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : CAT

[1]mo•gul /ˈmoʊgəl/ *noun, pl* **-guls** [*count*] : a powerful and important person ▪ TV *moguls* ▪ advertising *moguls* ▪ a young Hollywood *mogul* — compare [2]MOGUL

[2]mogul *noun, pl* **-guls** [*count*] : a bump or small hill on a ski slope — compare [1]MOGUL

mo•hair /ˈmoʊˌheɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an expensive fabric or wool made from the long, soft hair of a goat from Asia ▪ a sweater made of *mohair* and silk — often used before another noun ▪ She wore her *mohair* hat and mittens.

Mo•hawk /ˈmoʊˌhɑ:k/ *noun, pl* **-hawks** [*count*]

1 : a member of a Native American people of central New York state

2 *US* : a hairstyle in which the head is shaved except for a narrow strip of hair that goes down the center of the head — called also (*Brit*) *Mohican*

Mo•he•gan /moʊˈhi:gən/ *noun, pl* **-gans** [*count*] : MOHICAN 1b

Mo•hi•can /moʊˈhi:kən/ *noun, pl* **-cans** [*count*]

1 a : a member of a Native American people of northeastern New York State **b** : a member of a Native American people of southeastern Connecticut

2 *Brit* : MOHAWK 2

moist /ˈmoɪst/ *adj* **moist•er**; **-est** [*or more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : slightly or barely wet : not completely dry ▪ I love cookies when they are *moist* and chewy. ▪ The pork chops were tender and *moist*. ▪ a *moist* and spongy chocolate cake ▪ The plant grows best in direct sunlight and with rich, *moist* soil. ▪ She dabbed her *moist* eyes with a handkerchief.

2 : having a lot of moisture in the air : HUMID ▪ Fog is formed when warm *moist* air moves over a cold surface. ▪ *moist* tropical heat ▪ The eggs will hatch sooner in warm, *moist* conditions.

– **moist•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] the *moistness* of the air/cookies [*singular*] There is a *moistness* in the air today.

synonyms MOIST, DAMP, and DANK mean somewhat wet. MOIST suggests a slight wetness that is usually pleasant or desirable. ▪ She wiped her face with a *moist* towel. DAMP suggests that the wetness of something makes it unpleasant to touch. ▪ His shirt was *damp* with sweat. DANK suggests a cold, unpleasant wetness that may be harmful to a person's health. ▪ He was kept prisoner in a cold, *dank* cell.

moist•en /ˈmoɪsn̩/ *verb* **-ens**; **-ened**; **-en•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) slightly wet : to make (something) moist ▪ Corn syrup can be used to *moisten* and flavor baked foods. ▪ The chemical reaction begins as soon as the powder is *moistened*.

2 [*no obj*] : to become slightly wet ▪ His eyes *moistened* [=his eyes became tearful] at the memory of their kindness.

mois•ture /ˈmoɪsʧɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a small amount of a liquid (such as water) that makes something wet or moist ▪ These flowers grow best with *moisture* and shade. ▪ Wool socks will pull *moisture* away from your skin. ▪ The leaves absorb *moisture* from the air.

mois•tur•ize *also Brit* **mois•tur•ise** /ˈmoɪsʧəˌraɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es**; **-ized**; **-iz•ing** [+ *obj*] : to add moisture to (something, such as a person's skin) ▪ Use this cream to gently *moisturize* dry skin.

– **mois•tur•iz•er** *also Brit* **mois•tur•is•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count, noncount*] ▪ She uses a *moisturizer* on her skin.

– **mois•tur•iz•ing** *also Brit* **mois•tur•is•ing** *adj* ▪ a *moisturizing* cream/lotion

mo•jo /ˈmoʊʤoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-jos** *chiefly US, informal* : a power that may seem magical and that allows someone to be very effective, successful, etc. [*noncount*] He's been suffering from incredibly bad *mojo* lately. ▪ The team has lost its *mojo*. [*count*] We need to get our *mojos* working again.

mo•lar /ˈmoʊlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-lars** [*count*] : a large tooth near the back of the jaw with a wide surface used especially for grinding food

mo•las•ses /məˈlæsəz/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : a thick, brown, sweet liquid that is made from raw sugar ▪ *molasses* cookies [=cookies made with molasses] — called also (*Brit*) *treacle*

slow as molasses *or* ***slower than molasses*** *US, informal* : very slow or slowly ▪ I used to be a fast runner, but now I'm *slow as molasses*. ▪ People have complained that the legislature is moving/working *slower than molasses*.

[1]mold (*US*) *or Brit* **mould** /ˈmoʊld/ *noun, pl* **molds** [*count*]

1 a : a container that is used to give its shape to something

that is poured or pressed into it ▪ The candles are made in a *mold*. ▪ The gelatin is poured into a *mold* and chilled until firm. **b :** something made in a mold ▪ a large plaster *mold* of a foot

2 : a usual or typical example of something : a pattern or type of something that is an example to be followed ▪ a movie in the classic/traditional/familiar *mold* of a Hollywood thriller ▪ She does not ***fit (into/in) the mold*** of a typical college professor. [=she is not a typical college professor] ▪ He is ***(cast) in the same mold*** as other troubled heroes. [=he resembles other troubled heroes]

break the mold **1 :** to do something in a completely new way ▪ Voters are looking for a candidate who will *break the mold* and give them honest answers. **2** *informal* — used to describe a very unusual or admired person ▪ He was the greatest man I ever knew. ***They broke the mold*** when they made that guy. [=there will never be another person like him]

– compare ³MOLD

²mold (*US*) *or Brit* **mould** *verb* **molds**; **mold•ed**; **mold•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a :** to form or press (something, such as wax, plastic, clay, or dough) into a particular shape ▪ *mold* dough into loaves of bread **b :** to make (something) from a material that has been formed or pressed ▪ *mold* loaves of bread ▪ She gave her mother a tiny statue that she *molded* from clay. ▪ The mountains were *molded* [=*formed, shaped*] by the glaciers over thousands of years.

2 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) by pouring or pressing material (such as wax or plastic) into a mold ▪ The art class spent its time *molding* candles. ▪ *mold* plastic toys ▪ a *molded* plastic chair

3 [+ *obj*] : to create, influence, or affect the character of (someone or something) ▪ She has dedicated her life to teaching and *molding* young children into responsible adults. ▪ *molding* young minds ▪ He took a struggling company and *molded* it into something special.

4 [*no obj*] : to fit *to* the shape of something ▪ This new mattress pad will *mold to* your body [=it will change its shape to fit your body] when you sleep on it. ▪ The fabric is thin and flexible and will *mold to* your shape.

– mold•er (*US*) *or Brit* **mould•er** /ˈmoʊldɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ He sees himself as a *molder* of world events. ▪ a *molder* of young minds

³mold (*US*) *also Brit* **mould** *noun, pl* **molds** : a soft substance that grows on the surface of damp or rotting things [*noncount*] She's allergic to *mold*, cigarette smoke, and dust. ▪ bread *mold* [=mold that grows on bread] [*count*] a slime *mold* [=a mold that is slimy] — compare ¹MOLD

mold•er (*US*) *or Brit* **mould•er** /ˈmoʊldɚ/ *verb* **-ers**; **-ered**; **-er•ing** [*no obj*] : to rot slowly especially from not being used : to decay slowly ▪ An entire shipment of fruit is *moldering* (away) in the warehouse because of the strike. ▪ *moldering* [=*decaying*] old books

mold•ing (*US*) *or Brit* **mould•ing** /ˈmoʊldɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count, noncount*] : a strip of material (such as wood or metal) with some design or pattern that is used as a decoration on a wall, on the edge of a table, etc. ▪ The house has beautiful *moldings* around its doors and windows.

moldy (*US*) *or Brit* **mouldy** /ˈmoʊldi/ *adj* **mold•i•er**; **-est**

1 : covered with mold ▪ Her books became *moldy* after being left in a damp basement. ▪ *moldy* bread/fruit

2 : resembling mold : tasting, smelling, or looking like mold ▪ The wine had a slightly *moldy* aroma/flavor.

¹mole /ˈmoʊl/ *noun, pl* **moles** [*count*]

1 : a small animal with very small eyes and soft fur that digs tunnels in the ground and eats insects

2 : a spy who works inside an organization and gives secret information to another organization or country

– compare ²MOLE, ³MOLE

²mole *noun, pl* **moles** [*count*] : a small, brown spot on a person's skin ▪ He has a *mole* on his cheek. — compare ¹MOLE, ³MOLE

³mo•le /ˈmoʊleɪ/ *noun, pl* **mo•les** [*count, noncount*] *chiefly US* : a spicy sauce used in Mexican cooking ▪ chicken with *mole* (sauce) — compare ¹MOLE, ²MOLE

mol•e•cule /ˈmɑːlɪˌkjuːl/ *noun, pl* **-cules** [*count*]

1 : the smallest possible amount of a particular substance that has all the characteristics of that substance ▪ a *molecule* of water/oxygen ▪ sugar *molecules*

2 : a very small amount of something ▪ There is not a *molecule* of evidence to support these charges.

– mo•lec•u•lar /məˈlɛkjələɚ/ *adj* ▪ *molecular* weight ▪ *molecular* structure/movement ▪ She studied *molecular* biology in college.

mole•hill /ˈmoʊlˌhɪl/ *noun, pl* **-hills** [*count*] : a small pile of dirt that is pushed up by a mole when it digs tunnels underground

make a mountain out of a molehill : to make something seem much more difficult or important than it really is ▪ She thought that he was *making a mountain out of a molehill* by complaining about the placement of the silverware.

mole•skin /ˈmoʊlˌskɪn/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the skin of the mole used as fur

2 : a soft cotton cloth ▪ *moleskin* pants

mo•lest /məˈlɛst/ *verb* **-lests**; **-lest•ed**; **-lest•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to harm (someone) through sexual contact : to touch (someone) in a sexual and improper way ▪ He was sent to jail for *molesting* children.

2 *old-fashioned* : to bother or annoy (someone or something) ▪ It was illegal to *molest*, capture, or kill any of the animals in the park.

– mo•les•ta•tion /ˌmoʊˌlɛˈsteɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ child *molestation* ▪ a victim of *molestation* **– mo•lest•er** /məˈlɛstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ putting child *molesters* in jail

moll /ˈmɑːl/ *noun, pl* **molls** [*count*] *chiefly US, old-fashioned* + *informal* : a girlfriend of a criminal ▪ a gangster's *moll* — called also (*chiefly US*) *gun moll*

mol•li•fy /ˈmɑːləˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) less angry : to calm (someone) down ▪ He tried to *mollify* his critics with an apology. ▪ All attempts to *mollify* the extremists have failed. ▪ The landlord fixed the heat, but the tenants still were not *mollified*.

mol•lusk (*US*) *or Brit* **mol•lusc** /ˈmɑːləsk/ *noun, pl* **-lusks** [*count*] *biology* : any one of a large group of animals (such as snails and clams) that have a soft body without a backbone and that usually live in a shell

mol•ly•cod•dle /ˈmɑːliˌkɑːdl̩/ *verb* **-cod•dles**; **-cod•dled**; **-cod•dling** [+ *obj*] : to treat (someone) with more kindness and attention than is appropriate : to treat (someone) too nicely or gently ▪ You need to stop *mollycoddling* [=*babying, coddling*] that boy if you want him to succeed on his own. ▪ The coach has been *mollycoddling* the team's star players.

Mo•lo•tov cocktail /ˈmɑːləˌtɑːf-/ *noun, pl* ~ **-tails** [*count*] : a simple bomb made from a bottle filled with gasoline and stuffed with a piece of cloth that is lit just before the bottle is thrown — called also (*Brit*) *petrol bomb*

molt (*US*) *or Brit* **moult** /ˈmoʊlt/ *verb* **molts**; **molt•ed**; **molt•ing** [*no obj*] *biology* : to lose a covering of hair, feathers, etc., and replace it with new growth in the same place ▪ Snakes *molt* as they grow, shedding the old skin and growing a larger new skin.

mol•ten /ˈmoʊltn̩/ *adj, always used before a noun* : melted by heat ▪ *molten* metal/glass/lead ▪ molten lava

mom /ˈmɑːm/ *noun, pl* **moms** [*count*] *US, informal* : a person's mother ▪ My *mom* [=(*Brit*) *mum*] wants me to call when I get there. — often used as a form of address ▪ *Mom*, do you know where I left my keys? — see also SOCCER MOM

mom–and–pop /ˈmɑːmənˈpɑːp/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US* : owned and run by a married couple or by a small number of people ▪ Big department stores can drive *mom-and-pop* shops/stores out of business. ▪ a *mom-and-pop* business that grew to become a large corporation

mo•ment /ˈmoʊmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**

1 [*count*] : a very short period of time ▪ The sunshine that was here a *moment* [=*minute, second*] ago is gone. ▪ The sun was shining. *Moments* later, it began to rain. ▪ It was a *moment* before she realized what had happened. ▪ She stopped for a *moment* and peeked into the window. ▪ It should only take a *moment* to fix the problem. ▪ Do you have a (spare) *moment*? [=do you have some free time so we can talk to each other briefly?] ▪ I'm very busy and I don't have a *moment* to spare. ▪ The doctor arrived ***not a moment too soon***. [=the doctor arrived just in time to help] ▪ I'll explain that ***in a moment***. [=shortly, soon] ▪ The crowd observed a ***moment of silence*** [=a short period of silent thought or prayer] for those who died in the tragedy.

2 [*count*] : a particular time : a precise point in time ▪ One *moment* it was sunny; the next it was pouring rain. ▪ We enjoyed every *moment* of the play. [=we enjoyed all of the play] ▪ The *moment* for us to act has arrived. ▪ The *moment* is ripe for action. [=this is the right time for action] ▪ War seemed unavoidable at that *moment* in history. ▪ She knew exactly the right *moment* to ask for a raise. ▪ We had an exciting va-

cation. There was ***never a dull moment***.

3 a [*noncount*] : the present time ▪ ***At the moment*** [=*right now, at the current time*] she is working on a novel. ▪ We aren't prepared ***at this moment*** [=*at this time, now*] to say what our plans are. ▪ ***As of this moment*** [=*as of now, right now*], there's nothing you can do. ✧ Something that is true ***for the moment*** is true now but might not be true for long. ▪ *For the moment*, it is the world's largest city. [=it is the world's largest city now, but that may not be true much longer] ▪ He's staying out of trouble *for the moment*. ▪ *For the moment*, at least, I had the room to myself. ✧ Someone or something that is ***of the moment*** is very popular at a particular time. ▪ the vacation destination *of the moment* [=the vacation destination that is now most popular] ▪ the man/woman *of the moment* [=the man/woman who is now very popular and admired] **b** [*count*] : a time of importance or success ▪ She took the time to relish her *moment* of triumph. ▪ He's not the best player on the team, but he ***has his moments***. [=he has times when he is extremely good, successful, etc.] ▪ It was a ***defining moment*** for him. ▪ It was a ***crowning moment*** in his presidency.

any moment ✧ If something could happen ***(at) any moment (now)***, it could happen very soon. ▪ He could lose his temper *at any moment*. ▪ The war could begin *at any moment*. ▪ She should be arriving *at any moment now*.

at/on a moment's notice see ¹NOTICE

from moment to moment *or* ***from one moment to the next*** *or* ***moment by moment*** : very quickly as time passes ▪ The weather kept changing *from one moment to the next*. = The weather kept changing *from moment to moment*. [=*from minute to minute*]

hold/hang on a moment *or* ***wait/just a moment*** *informal* — used to tell someone to wait or to stop for a brief time ▪ "Aren't you finished yet?" "*Hold on a moment*. I'm almost done." ▪ *Hang on a moment*—I don't understand.

moment of truth : the time when you have to do or decide something ▪ The *moment of truth* came early, when we had to decide whether to stay or go. ▪ It was her *moment of truth*, when she needed to show that she had the talent to succeed.

not for a/one moment : at no time : not at all ▪ I did *not* believe her *for one moment*. [=I never believed her]

of moment *formal* : having importance ▪ an event *of* great *moment* [=a very important event] ▪ There is no news *of* any *moment* to report.

on the spur of the moment see ¹SPUR

the last moment : the latest possible time : the last minute ▪ Our flight was canceled at *the last moment*. ▪ She finished her paper at *the last moment*. ▪ Many people wait until *the last* (possible) *moment* before shopping for Christmas presents.

the moment : as soon as ▪ *The moment* the cameras are turned off, he is able to relax. ▪ Everything stops *the moment* she walks in the room.

within moments : very quickly : within a very short amount of time ▪ *Within moments*, dozens of people had gathered.

mo•men•tari•ly /ˌmoʊmənˈterəli, *Brit* ˈməʊməntərəli/ *adv*

1 : for a short time : for a moment : BRIEFLY ▪ The pain eased *momentarily*. ▪ The wind let up *momentarily*, allowing us to start a campfire. ▪ He paused *momentarily* before finishing his speech.

2 *US* : very soon : at any moment ▪ We expect them to arrive *momentarily*. ▪ The pilot announced that the plane would be landing *momentarily*. [=*shortly*]

mo•men•tary /ˈmoʊmənˌteri, *Brit* ˈməʊməntəri/ *adj* : lasting a very short time : lasting only a moment ▪ There was a *momentary* [=*brief*] pause between songs. ▪ He experienced a *momentary* loss of consciousness.

mo•men•tous /moʊˈmɛntəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very important : having great or lasting importance ▪ My college graduation was a *momentous* day in my life. ▪ a *momentous* decision/event

– **mo•men•tous•ly** *adv* ▪ a *momentously* important decision

mo•men•tum /moʊˈmɛntəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 a : the strength or force that something has when it is moving ▪ forward *momentum* ▪ The wagon ***gathered/gained momentum*** [=it moved faster] as it rolled down the hill. ▪ The wagon ***lost momentum*** [=it moved more slowly; it slowed down] as it rolled up the hill. **b** : the strength or force that allows something to continue or to grow stronger or faster as time passes ▪ The company has had a successful year and hopes to maintain its *momentum* by introducing new products. ▪ The campaign slowly *gained/gathered momentum*. [=the campaign slowly became more popular and successful] ▪ The movie *loses momentum* toward the end.

2 *physics* : the property that a moving object has due to its mass and its motion

mom•ma *variant spelling of* MAMA

mom•my /ˈmɑːmi/ *noun, pl* **-mies** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* : a person's mother — used especially by children ▪ Where's my *mommy*? — often used as a form of address ▪ Can I go out to play, *mommy*?

Mon. *abbr* Monday

mon•arch /ˈmɑːˌnɑərk/ *noun, pl* **-archs** [*count*] : a person (such as a king or queen) who rules a kingdom or empire ▪ a new history of French *monarchs* ▪ an absolute *monarch*

monarch butterfly *noun, pl* ~ **-flies** [*count*] : a large orange and black American butterfly

mo•nar•chi•cal /məˈnɑrkɪkəl/ *also* **mo•nar•chic** /məˈnɑərkɪk/ *adj* : of or relating to a monarch or monarchy ▪ *monarchical* authority ▪ a *monarchical* government

mon•ar•chist /ˈmɑnərkɪst/ *noun, pl* **-chists** [*count*] : a person who believes that a country should have a monarch (such as a king or queen) : a person who supports a monarch or monarchy ▪ Loyal *monarchists* fought for the king.

– **monarchist** *adj* ▪ *monarchist* loyalties/beliefs

mon•ar•chy /ˈmɑnərki/ *noun, pl* **-chies**

1 [*count*] : a country that is ruled by a monarch (such as a king or queen)

2 [*count, noncount*] : a form of government in which a country is ruled by a monarch ▪ the French *monarchy* of the 18th century — see also CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY

mon•as•tery /ˈmɑːnəˌsteri, *Brit* ˈmɑːnəstri/ *noun, pl* **-teries** [*count*] : a place where monks live and work together ▪ a Catholic/Buddhist *monastery* — compare CONVENT

mo•nas•tic /məˈnæstɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : of or relating to monks or monasteries ▪ a *monastic* community ▪ *monastic* life ▪ He founded a *monastic* order in Belgium.

2 : resembling or suggesting a monk or the life of a monk ▪ He shows a *monastic* dedication to his job. ▪ She studied for the test with *monastic* zeal. ▪ a quiet, *monastic* existence

– **mo•nas•ti•cism** /məˈnæstəˌsɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the history of Christian/Buddhist *monasticism*

Mon•day /ˈmʌnˌdeɪ/ *noun, pl* **-days** : the day of the week between Sunday and Tuesday [*count*] I had lunch with her last *Monday*. ▪ I'll be seeing her again next *Monday*. ▪ The class meets on *Mondays*. [=every Monday] ▪ My birthday falls on a *Monday* this year. ▪ (*Brit*) Next week I'll arrive on the *Monday* and leave on the Friday. [*noncount*] Next week I'll arrive on *Monday* and leave on Friday. ▪ The paper is due on *Monday*. = (*chiefly US*) The paper is due *Monday*. ▪ I will arrive on *Monday* morning. — abbr. *Mon.*

– **Mondays** *adv* ▪ He works late *Mondays*. [=he works late every Monday]

Monday–morning quarterback *noun, pl* ~ **-backs** [*count*] *US, disapproving* : a person who unfairly criticizes or questions the decisions and actions of other people after something has happened ▪ After the water main broke, the *Monday-morning quarterbacks* [=*second-guessers*] in the media criticized the city for not replacing the old pipes.

mon•e•tary /ˈmɑːnəˌteri, *Brit* ˈmʌnətri/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to money ▪ a crime committed for *monetary* gain

2 : of or relating to the money in a country's economy ▪ this administration's *monetary* policy ▪ Gold was once the basis of the U.S. *monetary* system.

– **mon•e•tar•i•ly** /ˌmɑːnəˈterəli, *Brit* ˈmʌnətrəli/ *adv* ▪ Many companies will benefit/gain *monetarily* from the decision.

mon•ey /ˈmʌni/ *noun, pl* **mon•ies** *or* **mon•eys** /ˈmʌniz/

1 [*noncount*] : something (such as coins or bills) used as a way to pay for goods and services and to pay people for their work ▪ Dinner cost a lot of *money* last night. = We were charged a lot of *money* for dinner last night. ▪ a sum of *money* ▪ That painting must be worth a lot of *money*. ▪ She's been making a lot of *money* in her new job. = (*informal*) She's been making big/good *money* in her new job. ▪ He earned some *money* last summer as a musician. ▪ We're trying to save enough *money* for a new car. ▪ The town is raising *money* for the elementary school. ▪ Friends would always ask her for *money*. ▪ It's an interesting idea, but there's no *money* in it: it'll never sell. ▪ The club ***made money*** [=earned money; made a profit] by selling advertisements in the newsletter. ▪

She knew she could *make money* [=earn a profit] on the deal. = She knew there was *money* to be *made* from/on the deal. ▪ When they take a vacation, ***money is no object*** [=they are not concerned about the price of things] They always stay at the most expensive places. — see also BLOOD MONEY, FUNNY MONEY, HUSH MONEY, OLD MONEY, PAPER MONEY, POCKET MONEY, SEED MONEY, SOFT MONEY, SPENDING MONEY, *smart money* at ¹SMART

2 [*noncount*] : a person's wealth : the money that a person has ▪ He made his *money* in the insurance business. ▪ He lost his *money* on foolish investments. = He threw all his *money* away on foolish investments. ▪ They decided to put all their *money* in the stock market. ▪ We didn't have much *money* when I was growing up. ▪ She ***comes from money.*** [=her family is rich] ▪ She ***married into money.*** [=she married a wealthy man] — see also *marry money* at MARRY

3 *monies* *or* ***moneys*** [*plural*] *formal* : amounts of money ▪ Most of the project is being paid for by federal *monies*. ▪ All *monies* received will be deposited in a special account.

a run for your money see ²RUN

for love or/nor money see ¹LOVE

for my money *informal* : in my opinion ▪ This book is, *for my money*, her best novel yet. [=I think this is her best novel yet] ▪ *For my money*, nothing beats a juicy peach on a hot summer day.

in the money **1** *US* : among the top three finishers in a race (such as a horse race) ▪ Whatever horse I bet on, it never finishes *in the money*. **2** *informal* : having lots of money ▪ They struggled for many years but now they're *in the money*.

made of money *informal* : having a lot of money : RICH ▪ Do I look like I'm *made of money*? ▪ Stop asking your father for a bigger allowance. He's not *made of money*, you know!

money for jam *or* ***money for old rope*** *Brit, informal* : money that is easily earned or gotten : easy money

money talks — used to say that money has a strong influence on people's actions and decisions ▪ In politics, *money talks*. [=people and companies with a lot of money have a powerful influence in politics]

money to burn *informal* : a large amount of money to spend ▪ expensive cars for people with *money to burn*

on the money *US, informal* : exactly right or accurate ▪ His prediction that it would rain was (right) *on the money*.

put (your) money on : to bet on (something or someone) ▪ Everyone there *put their money on* the underdog. — often used to say that you feel very sure that something is true, will happen, etc. ▪ "Do you think he'll win?" "I'd *put money on* it." ▪ It's going to rain tomorrow. I'd *put money on* it.

put your money where your mouth is *informal* : to give or spend money or take some action in order to do or support something that you have been talking about ▪ It's time for the mayor to *put his money where his mouth is* and increase funding for schools.

throw money around : to spend money in a foolish or careless way ▪ He really *throws* (his) *money around*.

throw money at : to try to solve (a problem) by spending a large amount of money on it without giving enough thought to exactly what should be done ▪ The flaws in our school system will never be fixed as long as the government continues to just *throw money at* the problem.

time is money — used to say that a person's time is as valuable as money

your money's worth : as much as you deserve because of the money you paid or the effort you made ▪ His new movie gives his fans *their money's worth*. [=his new movie is good and is worth the money that his fans pay to see it] ▪ The people who showed up for the concert certainly ***got their money's worth*** ▪ He insisted on staying until the end of the show so that he could *get his money's worth*.

mon•ey–back /ˈmʌniˈbæk/ *adj, always used before a noun* : allowing buyers to get their money back if the product breaks, does not work, or is not what the buyer wanted ▪ All of their tools come with a *money-back* guarantee.

mon•ey•bags /ˈmʌniˌbægz/ *noun, pl* **moneybags** [*count*] *informal* : a very rich person ▪ His campaign is being paid for by a local *moneybags*.

money box *noun, pl* ~ **boxes** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a box that has a narrow opening in the top and that is used for saving coins

mon•eyed *or* **mon•ied** /ˈmʌnid/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : having a lot of money : very rich ▪ a member of the *moneyed* classes

mon•ey–grub•ber /ˈmʌniˌgrʌbɚ/ *noun, pl* **-bers** [*count*] *informal* : a person who cares too much about getting money ▪ a selfish *money-grubber*
– **mon•ey–grub•bing** /ˈmʌniˌgrʌbɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a bitter, *money-grubbing* old miser – **money–grubbing** *noun* [*noncount*]

mon•ey•lend•er /ˈmʌniˌlɛndɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who lends money as a business ▪ He was unable to repay his debts to the *moneylender*.

mon•ey–mak•er /ˈmʌniˌmeɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : something (such as a product) that earns a profit ▪ The book eventually became a *money-maker* for its publisher. ▪ This movie should be the biggest *money-maker* of the summer. — called also (*Brit*) *money-spinner*
2 : a person who earns or wins a large amount of money ▪ He is one of the top *money-makers* in professional tennis.
– **mon•ey–mak•ing** /ˈmʌniˌmeɪkɪŋ/ *adj* ▪ a film with *money-making* potential

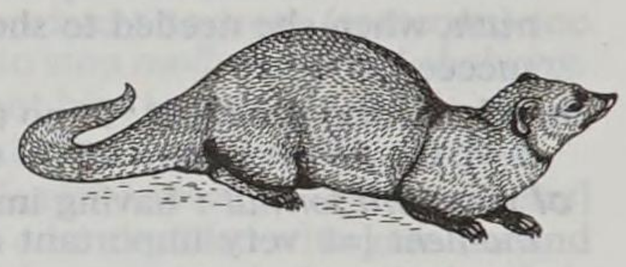
mon•ey•man /ˈmʌniˌmæn/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-ˌmɛn/ [*count*] : a man who controls the use of large amounts of money — usually plural ▪ a politician being bankrolled by a group of powerful *moneymen*

money order *noun, pl* ~ **-ders** [*count*] : a written order to pay a particular amount of money to a specified person or company ✧ A money order can be bought from a bank or post office and sent by mail like a check to make a payment to another person. ▪ She mailed a *money order* to the company for the cost of the TV she bought. ▪ Payments can be made by check or ***by money order.*** [=by using a money order] — called also (*Brit*) *postal order*

mon•ey–spin•ner /ˈmʌniˌspɪnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ners** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : MONEY-MAKER 1
– **mon•ey–spin•ning** /ˈmʌniˌspɪnɪŋ/ *adj, Brit*

money supply *noun*
the money supply *business* : the total amount of money available for spending in a country's economy ▪ an increase in *the money supply*

mon•goose /ˈmɑːnˌguːs/ *noun, pl* **-goos•es** [*count*] : a small and very fast animal from India that eats snakes and rodents



mongoose

mon•grel /ˈmɑːŋgrəl/ *noun, pl* **-grels** [*count*] : a dog with parents of different breeds ▪ She owns several dogs, including a *mongrel* named Stella. — often used before another noun ▪ a *mongrel* dog — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The new house was a *mongrel*, with a mix of styles from different times and places.

monied *variant spelling of* MONEYED

monies *plural of* MONEY

mon•i•ker /ˈmɑːnɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-kers** [*count*] *informal* : a name or nickname ▪ He earned the *moniker* "Gator" from his days wrestling alligators in Florida. ▪ I think "Happy" is an appropriate *moniker* for someone who smiles so much.

¹mon•i•tor /ˈmɑːnətɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]
1 : a device that is used for showing, watching, or listening to something: such as **a** : a device that shows information or images on a screen ▪ a computer *monitor* ▪ a television *monitor* ▪ They watched the press conference on a video *monitor* in a back room. — see pictures at CAMERA, COMPUTER **b** : a device that is used to listen to sounds being made in another room ▪ We put a baby *monitor* in the nursery. **c** : a device that shows and records information about a condition or function of the body ▪ a heart *monitor*
2 : a student who helps the teacher at a school ▪ (*US*) He was chosen to be a ***hall monitor.*** [=a student who watches the hallways for bad behavior]
3 : a person who has the job of checking or watching some activity or behavior ▪ U.N. weapons *monitors* and inspectors

²monitor *verb* **-tors**; **-tored**; **-tor•ing** [+ *obj*] : to watch, observe, listen to, or check (something) for a special purpose over a period of time ▪ Nurses constantly *monitored* the patient's heart rate. ▪ We're in a good position to *monitor* and respond to customer concerns. ▪ She's been able to *monitor* [=*keep track of*] his progress. ▪ Government agents have been *monitoring* the enemy's radio communications.

monk /ˈmʌŋk/ *noun, pl* **monks** [*count*] : a member of a religious community of men who usually promise to remain poor, unmarried, and separated from the rest of society ▪ Catholic/Buddhist *monks* — compare NUN

– **monk•ish** /'mʌŋkɪʃ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] • a quiet *monkish* man • a *monkish* way of life

[1]mon•key /'mʌŋki/ *noun, pl* **-keys** [*count*]

1 : a type of animal that is closely related to apes and humans and that has a long tail and usually lives in trees — see also RHESUS MONKEY

2 *chiefly Brit* : a person (especially a child) who causes trouble in a playful way • He's quite a cheeky little *monkey*, isn't he?

a monkey on your back : a problem that you cannot easily get rid of or solve : a problem or situation that makes you unhappy and that lasts for a long time • His drug addiction has been a *monkey on his back* for years. • He finally ***got the monkey off his back*** and kicked his drug addiction. • After many years of disappointment, she finally *got the monkey off her back* by winning the championship.

make a monkey out of *informal* : to cause (someone) to look very foolish : to make a fool out of (someone) • I'm not going to let that salesman *make a monkey out of* me!

more fun than a barrel (full) of monkeys see [1]BARREL

not give a monkey's *Brit, informal* : to not care at all about something. • I *don't give a monkey's* about their problems!

– see also GREASE MONKEY

[2]monkey *verb* **-keys; -keyed; -key•ing**

monkey around *or Brit* ***monkey about*** [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** : to do things that are not useful or serious : to waste time • We just *monkeyed around* [=*fooled around, messed around*] all afternoon. • a young scientist *monkeying around* in the lab **2** ***monkey around/about with (something)*** *informal* **a** : to use or do (something) in a way that is not very serious • He enjoys *monkeying around with* [=*fooling around with*] his car's engine. **b** : to handle or play with (something) in a careless or foolish way • You shouldn't be *monkeying around with* dangerous chemicals.

monkey with [*phrasal verb*] ***monkey with (something)*** *informal* : to handle or play with (something) in a careless way : to monkey around with (something) • I told you not to *monkey with* [=*fool with*] the lawn mower.

monkey bars *noun* [*plural*] *US* : a frame of bars that children can play on by climbing and by swinging from one bar to the next one in the way that monkeys in a tree swing from branch to branch

monkey business *noun* [*noncount*] *informal*

1 : playful tricks or jokes • Our teacher warned us not to try any *monkey business* while she was out of the room.

2 : illegal or improper activity or behavior • political *monkey business*

mon•key•shines /'mʌŋki,ʃaɪnz/ *noun* [*plural*] *US, informal + old-fashioned* : playful tricks and jokes : MONKEY BUSINESS • mischievous children engaging in *monkeyshines*

monkey wrench *noun, pl* **~ wrenches** [*count*] : a wrench that can be adjusted to grip or turn things of different sizes — used in U.S. English to refer especially to a large, heavy wrench with a long, straight handle

throw/hurl/toss a monkey wrench into *US, informal* : to damage or change (something) in a way that ruins it or prevents it from working properly • The storm *threw a monkey wrench into* their plans for a picnic. [=the storm ruined their plans for a picnic]

mono /'mɑ:noʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 *informal* : MONONUCLEOSIS

2 : a way of recording and playing back sound so that all the sound comes from one direction • They recorded the album in *mono*. — compare STEREO

– **mono** *adj* • a *mono* recording

mono- *combining form* : one : single • *mono*plane • *mono*lingual

mono•chro•mat•ic /,mɑ:nəkroʊ'mætɪk/ *adj* : having or made up of one color or shades of one color • It's a *monochromatic* room with a blue rug and blue furniture.

mono•chrome /'mɑ:nə,kroʊm/ *adj*

1 : having or made up of one color or shades of one color : MONOCHROMATIC • a *monochrome* paint scheme • *monochrome* colors

2 : using or showing only black and white and shades of gray • a *monochrome* film/photograph — sometimes used figuratively • a dull, *monochrome* existence

mon•o•cle /'mɑ:nɪkəl/ *noun, pl* **mon•o•cles** [*count*] : a single round lens for one eye that helps people see and that is held in place by the muscles around the eye

– **mon•o•cled** /'mɑ:nɪkəld/ *adj* • a *monocled* professor [=a professor wearing a monocle]

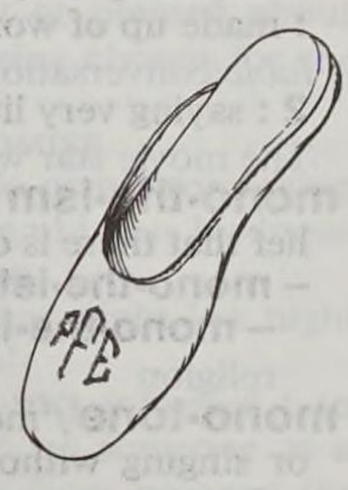
mo•nog•a•my /mə'nɑ:gəmi/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the state or practice of being married to only one person at a time — compare POLYGAMY

2 : the state or practice of having only one sexual partner during a period of time • young couples who practice *monogamy* • *Monogamy* is common among birds.

– **mo•nog•a•mous** /mə'nɑ:gəməs/ *adj* • They've been in a *monogamous* relationship for many years. • Many birds are *monogamous*.

mono•gram /'mɑ:nə,græm/ *noun, pl* **-grams** [*count*] : a symbol that has the first letters of a person's first, middle, and last names and that is put on towels, blankets, clothes, etc., as a decoration or to show ownership


monogram

– **mono•grammed** /'mɑ:nə,græmd/ *adj* • *monogrammed* towels

mono•lin•gual /,mɑ:nə'lɪŋgwəl/ *adj*

1 : able to speak and understand only one language • He regrets being *monolingual* and wishes he were bilingual.

2 : using or expressed in only one language • a *monolingual* dictionary — compare BILINGUAL, MULTILINGUAL

mono•lith /'mɑ:nə,lɪθ/ *noun, pl* **-liths** [*count*]

1 a : a very large stone that is usually tall and narrow; *especially* : a stone that was put in position by people as a monument or for religious reasons • an ancient *monolith* **b** : a very large building or other structure • The new office building is a massive steel and concrete *monolith*.

2 *often disapproving* : a very large and powerful organization that acts as a single unit • The media *monolith* owns a number of networks. • a global *monolith*

– **mono•lith•ic** /,mɑ:nə'lɪθɪk/ *adj* • a large, *monolithic* building • a *monolithic* organization

mono•logue *also US* **mono•log** /'mɑ:nə,lɑ:g/ *noun, pl* **-logues** *also US* **-logs** [*count*]

1 : a long speech given by a character in a story, movie, play, etc., or by a performer (such as a comedian) • The play begins with the main character's *monologue*. • The comedian is famous for his *monologue* about winning the lottery.

2 : a long speech made by one person that prevents anyone else from talking • I stifled a yawn as she launched into a *monologue* about how she is going to become a famous star.

mono•nu•cle•o•sis /,mɑ:nə,nu:kli'oʊsəs, *Brit* ,mɒnə,nju:kli'əʊsəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a disease that makes people very tired and weak for a long time — called also (*Brit*) *glandular fever*, (*informal*) *mono*

mono•plane /'mɑ:nə,pleɪn/ *noun, pl* **-planes** [*count*] : an airplane with one set of wings — compare BIPLANE ✧ Most modern airplanes are monoplanes.

mo•nop•o•lize *also Brit* **mo•nop•o•lise** /mə'nɑ:pə,laɪz/ *verb* **-liz•es; -lized; -liz•ing** [+ *obj*] : to take over and control (something or someone) completely • He's always *monopolizing* the conversation. • The company has *monopolized* the market for computer operating systems. • The demands of the job have been *monopolizing* my time. [=using up all my time] : to use (something) in a way that prevents others from using it • One group *monopolized* the camping area, taking almost all of the campsites.

– **mo•nop•o•list** /mə'nɑ:pəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-lists** [*count*] • a powerful *monopolist* [=a person or company that has or controls a monopoly] – **mo•nop•o•li•za•tion** *also Brit* **mo•nop•o•li•sa•tion** /mə,nɑ:pələ'zeɪʃən, *Brit* mə,nɒpə,laɪ'zeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

mo•nop•o•ly /mə'nɑ:pəli/ *noun, pl* **-lies**

1 [*count*] **a** : complete control of the entire supply of goods or of a service in a certain area or market • The company has gained/acquired a (virtual/near) *monopoly* of/on/over the logging industry in this area. **b** : a large company that has a monopoly • The government passed laws intended to break up *monopolies*.

2 [*singular*] : complete ownership or control of something — usually + *on* or (*chiefly Brit*) *of* • He seems to think he has a *monopoly on* the truth. [=to think that he is the only person who knows what is true]

– **mo•nop•o•lis•tic** /mə,nɑ:pə'lɪstɪk/ *adj* • *monopolistic* business practices

mono•rail /'mɑ:nə,reɪl/ *noun, pl* **-rails** : a type of railroad that uses a single track which is usually high off the ground [*count*] *Monorails* connect different parts of the park. [*noncount*] traveling by *monorail*; *also* [*count*] : a vehicle that

travels on a monorail ▪ The passengers boarded the *monorail*.

mono•so•di•um glu•ta•mate /ˌmɑːnəˌsoʊdijəmˈgluːtəˌmeɪt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a kind of salt used for seasoning foods — called also *MSG*

mono•syl•la•ble /ˈmɑːnəˌsɪləbəl/ *noun, pl* **-la•bles** [*count*] : a word that has only one syllable ▪ He answered all their questions with *monosyllables* like "yes" and "no."

mono•syl•lab•ic /ˌmɑːnəsəˈlæbɪk/ *adj*
1 : having only one syllable ▪ a *monosyllabic* word/reply
: made up of words that have only one syllable ▪ a *monosyllabic* conversation
2 : saying very little or responding with one-syllable words ▪ The movie star was *monosyllabic* with newspaper reporters.

mono•the•ism /ˈmɑːnəˌθiːjɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the belief that there is only one God
– **mono•the•ist** /ˈmɑnəˌθiːjɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*]
– **mono•the•is•tic** /ˌmɑːnəˌθiˈɪstɪk/ *adj* ▪ a *monotheistic* religion

mono•tone /ˈmɑːnəˌtoʊn/ *noun* [*singular*] : a way of talking or singing without raising or lowering the sound of your voice ▪ She read the story in a dull *monotone*. ▪ He sang in a soft, low *monotone*. ▪ She spoke in a *monotone* voice.

mo•not•o•nous /məˈnɑːtnəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] — used to describe something that is boring because it is always the same ▪ a *monotonous* task ▪ Students complained that the meals were *monotonous*. ▪ She spoke in a *monotonous* voice.
– **mo•not•o•nous•ly** *adv* ▪ The teacher droned on *monotonously*.

mo•not•o•ny /məˈnɑːtni/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a lack of change that makes something boring : a monotonous quality ▪ She hated the *monotony* of the job. ▪ The brief storm was a relief from the *monotony* of the hot summer afternoon.

mono•un•sat•u•rat•ed /ˌmɑːnoʊˌʌnˈsætʃəreɪtəd/ *adj, technical* — used to describe a type of oil or fat that is found in foods such as olives and almonds and that is better for your health than saturated fats and trans fats ▪ *monounsaturated* fats ▪ *monounsaturated* oils such as olive, peanut, and canola oils — compare POLYUNSATURATED, SATURATED, UNSATURATED

monoxide see CARBON MONOXIDE

mon•si•gnor /mɑnˈsiːnjɚ/ *noun, pl* **mon•si•gnors** *or* **mon•si•gno•ri** /ˌmɑːnˌsiːnˈjori/ [*count*] : a Roman Catholic priest of high rank ▪ bishops and *monsignors* ▪ *Monsignor* Donsuso

mon•soon /mɑnˈsuːn/ *noun, pl* **-soons** [*count*]
1 : a wind in the Indian Ocean and southern Asia that brings heavy rains in the summer
2 a : the rainy season that occurs in southern Asia in the summer ▪ the beginning of the *monsoon* (season) **b** : the rain that falls during this season ▪ floods caused by summer *monsoons* — sometimes used in an exaggerated way to refer to a heavy rainstorm ▪ The game was played in a *monsoon*.

[1]mon•ster /ˈmɑːnstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sters** [*count*]
1 : a strange or horrible imaginary creature ▪ mythical *monsters* ▪ a sea *monster* ▪ a *monster* movie [=a movie about monsters]
2 *informal* : something that is extremely or unusually large ▪ That car is a *monster*. ▪ It's a *monster* of a house. [=a very large house]
3 : a powerful person or thing that cannot be controlled and that causes many problems ▪ Inflation has become an economic *monster*.
4 a : an extremely cruel or evil person ▪ His father was a *monster* who punished his children for no reason. ▪ You don't want to work for that *monster*. **b** : a person (such as a child) who behaves very badly ▪ My nephew is a little *monster*.
– see also GREEN-EYED MONSTER

[2]monster *adj, always used before a noun, informal* : very popular and successful ▪ The movie turned out to be a *monster* hit. ▪ a *monster* band

mon•stros•i•ty /mɑnˈstrɑːsəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*count*] : something (such as a building) that is very large and ugly ▪ Did you see the new mall? It's a *monstrosity*.

mon•strous /ˈmɑːnstrəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : extremely or unusually large : GIGANTIC ▪ a *monstrous* billboard
2 : very wrong or unfair ▪ It was *monstrous* of him to keep the truth from them all those years. ▪ a *monstrous* injustice
3 : very ugly, cruel, or vicious ▪ a *monstrous* crime/criminal ▪ *monstrous* depravity
– **mon•strous•ly** *adv* ▪ a *monstrously* large billboard

mon•tage /mɑnˈtɑːʒ/ *noun, pl* **-tag•es**
1 : a work of art that is made up of several different kinds of things (such as strips of newspaper, pictures, or pieces of wood) [*count*] a photographic *montage* [*noncount*] a photographer who often uses *montage* in her pictures
2 [*count*] : a mixture of different things — usually + *of* ▪ a *montage of* emotions/sounds/images

Mon•te•rey jack /ˈmɑːntəˌreɪˈʤæk/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : a mild kind of cheese

month /ˈmʌnθ/ *noun, pl* **months**
1 [*count*] : any one of the 12 parts into which the year is divided ▪ July is my favorite *month*. ▪ It was hard to keep warm in the cabin during the winter *months*. ▪ the merry *month* of May ▪ The payments are due (on) the third of the *month*. [=on the third day of every month] ▪ We visit them twice a *month*. [=two times every month] ▪ I saw her last *month* and I'll see her again next *month*. ▪ The price changes ***from month to month***. = The price changes each/every *month*. ▪ The price sometimes changes dramatically ***from one month to the next***. ▪ His health has been getting better ***month by month***. = His health has been getting better ***with each passing month***. [=his health has been getting better in a gradual and steady way as months have passed] ▪ These problems have continued ***month after month***. [=for several or many months]
2 [*count*] : a period of time that lasts about four weeks or 30 days ▪ The baby is four *months* old. [=a four-*month*-old baby] ▪ a pregnant woman who is in her eighth *month* = a woman who has been pregnant for eight *months* ▪ He was gone for a *month*. ▪ She was back to work a *month* after the accident. ▪ I'll be seeing her again in a *month*. = I'll be seeing her again a *month* from now. = I'll be seeing her again in ***a month's time***.
3 *months* [*plural*] : a long period of time that is less than a year ▪ He's been gone for *months*. ▪ I haven't talked to her in *months*.
a month of Sundays *informal* : an extremely long time ▪ I haven't talked to her in *a month of Sundays*.
of the month : chosen for special honors or attention during a particular month ▪ He's been chosen as the employee *of the month* four times this year! [=chosen as the employee who is honored in a particular month for doing excellent work] ▪ the book *of the month* — see also *flavor of the month* at [1]FLAVOR

month•long /ˈmʌnθˈlɑːŋ/ *adj* : lasting an entire month ▪ a *monthlong* vacation

[1]month•ly /ˈmʌnθli/ *adj*
1 : happening, done, or made every month ▪ The *monthly* meeting is today. ▪ The regional manager visits the office on a *monthly* basis.
2 : published once every month ▪ She writes a *monthly* column for the magazine. ▪ a *monthly* magazine/newsletter
3 : of or relating to one month ▪ *monthly* payments ▪ her *monthly* salary [=the salary she receives every month] ▪ a *monthly* fee ▪ the *monthly* total of traffic accidents
– **monthly** *adv* ▪ The magazine is published *monthly*. ▪ Water the plant when the soil feels dry and feed it *monthly*. [=once every month]

[2]monthly *noun, pl* **-lies** [*count*] : a magazine that is published once every month ▪ He reads one of the travel *monthlies*.

mon•u•ment /ˈmɑːnjəmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*]
1 a : a building, statue, etc., that honors a person or event ▪ They have erected a *monument* in his honor. — often + *to* ▪ The statue serves as a *monument to* those who have served in the armed forces. **b** : a building or place that is important because of when it was built or because of something in history that happened there ▪ ancient *monuments* **c** : NATIONAL MONUMENT
2 : an example of something — + *to* ▪ The fashions of that era are a *monument to* bad taste. [=they are a perfect example of bad taste] ▪ His life is a *monument to* what people can endure and overcome.

mon•u•men•tal /ˌmɑːnjəˈmɛntl/ *adj*
1 : very important ▪ a *monumental* discovery/achievement
2 : very great or extreme ▪ It's more than a mistake; it's a case of *monumental* stupidity. ▪ the *monumental* complexity of the issue ▪ Repairing the damage will be a *monumental* task/job.
3 *always used before a noun* : of or relating to a monument ▪ The class was about modern *monumental* architecture.
– **mon•u•men•tal•ly** *adv* ▪ *monumentally* stupid/important

moo /ˈmuː/ *noun, pl* **moos** [*count*] : the sound made by a cow

– **moo** *verb* **moos**; **mooed**; **moo•ing** [*no obj*] ▪ We heard the cows *mooing* in the field.

mooch /ˈmuːʧ/ *verb* **mooch•es**; **mooched**; **mooch•ing** *US, informal + disapproving* : to ask for and get things from other people without paying for them or doing anything for them [+ *obj*] He's always *mooching* [=*bumming*] cigarettes. — often + *off* ▪ She's been *mooching* money *off* everyone she knows. [*no obj*] — usually + *off* ▪ He's always *mooching off* his friends. ▪ He *mooched off* his parents for a few years [=he lived with his parents and didn't do any work] and then found a job and moved to the city.

mooch around/about [*phrasal verb*] *Brit, informal* : to walk around with no particular purpose ▪ I've just been *mooching about* all afternoon. ▪ We *mooched around* at some antique stores and then went to a café.

[1]mood /ˈmuːd/ *noun, pl* **moods**

1 [*count*] : the way someone feels : a person's emotional state ▪ He's been in a good *mood* all week. [=he's been happy and pleasant all week] ▪ Watching the news has put me in a bad *mood*. [=has made me unhappy and depressed] ▪ The kids are in a silly *mood* today. ▪ The good news lifted/lightened her *mood*. ▪ The bad news darkened/depressed her *mood*. ▪ She is a woman of many *moods*. Let's hope she's in one of her cheerful *moods* today. ▪ She may join us later. It depends on what kind of *mood* she's in. ▪ He's in one of his *moods*. [=he's in a bad mood] ▪ Quit teasing him. He's obviously ***in no mood*** for joking. ▪ It's a gorgeous day, and I'm *in no mood* to clean the house. ▪ It's hard to relate to someone who has such wild/extreme ***mood swings***. [=someone whose mood changes very quickly] ▪ (*medical*) ***mood disorders*** such as severe depression or anxiety

2 [*singular*] : an attitude or feeling shared by many people ▪ The *mood* of the country/city was grim.

3 [*count*] : a quality that creates a particular feeling ▪ She turned down the lights and lit a candle to create a more romantic *mood*. [=*atmosphere*]

in the mood : feeling a desire *for* (something) or *to do* something ▪ I'm *in the mood for* sushi. ▪ She was *in the mood for* love. ▪ He's a great pianist and goes to the jazz club whenever he's *in the mood to play*. ▪ I'm sorry. I'm just not *in the mood to talk*. [=I do not want to talk to anyone right now] ▪ "Would you like to see a movie?" "No, I'm not *in the mood* (*to see* a movie)."

the mood takes you ✧ When *the mood takes you*, you have the feeling of wanting to do something. ▪ She can be very sociable when/if *the mood takes her*.

– compare [2]MOOD

[2]mood *noun, pl* **moods** [*count*] *grammar* : a set of forms of a verb that show whether the action or state expressed by the verb is thought of as a fact, a command, or a wish or possibility ▪ In "I walked to school," the verb "walked" is in the indicative *mood*. ▪ the imperative/subjunctive *mood* — compare [1]MOOD

mood music *noun* [*noncount*] : music that is meant to create a relaxed or romantic feeling ▪ He lit some candles and put on some *mood music*.

moody /ˈmuːdi/ *adj* **mood•i•er**; **-est** [*also more ~; most ~*]

1 a : often unhappy or unfriendly ▪ *moody* teenagers ▪ I don't know why I get so *moody* sometimes. **b** : having moods that change often ▪ She's a *moody* woman—she can be happy one minute and angry the next.

2 : creating a certain mood or feeling ▪ The room's *moody* lighting suggested mystery and romance. ▪ a *moody* painting/ballad/film

– **mood•i•ly** /ˈmuːdəli/ *adv* ▪ He stared *moodily* out the window. ▪ a *moodily* lit room – **mood•i•ness** /ˈmuːdinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Her *moodiness* makes her hard to get along with.

moo•la *or* **moo•lah** /ˈmuːˌlɑː/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US slang* : MONEY ▪ They're making major/much *moola*. [=a lot of money]

[1]moon /ˈmuːn/ *noun, pl* **moons**

1 ***the moon*** *or* ***the Moon*** : the large round object that circles the Earth and that shines at night by reflecting light from the sun ▪ The telescope makes the craters on the surface of the *moon* incredibly clear. ▪ The *moon* isn't out tonight. = There's no *moon* tonight. [=the moon cannot be seen tonight] ▪ the first *moon* [=*lunar*] landing [=the first time people landed a spacecraft on the moon] ▪ the orbit of the *Moon* around the Earth — see also BLUE MOON, FULL MOON, HALF-MOON, HARVEST MOON, NEW MOON

2 [*count*] : a large round object like the moon that circles around a planet other than the Earth ▪ Europa and Io are both *moons* of Jupiter. ▪ a planet orbited by one *moon*

ask for the moon *or Brit* ***cry for the moon*** *informal* : to ask for something that is very difficult or impossible to get ▪ The striking workers say they just want to be paid what they're worth. They're not *asking for the moon*.

many moons *informal* : a very long time ▪ I visited my old school yesterday for the first time in *many moons*. ▪ But that was all *many moons* ago.

over the moon *informal* : very happy or pleased about something ▪ She's *over the moon* at being chosen for the award.

promise (someone) the moon see [2]PROMISE

reach/shoot for the moon : to try to do or get something that is very difficult to do or get ▪ an ambitious businessman who is always *shooting for the moon*

– **moon•less** /ˈmuːnləs/ *adj* ▪ a *moonless* night [=a night during which the moon cannot be seen]

[2]moon *verb* **moons**; **mooned**; **moon•ing** *informal* : to bend over and show your bare buttocks to someone as a rude joke or insult [+ *obj*] One of the boys *mooned* the crowd. [*no obj*] One of the boys *mooned* at the crowd.

moon around/about [*phrasal verb*] *Brit, informal* : to move around slowly because you are unhappy ▪ I was feeling depressed and just *mooned about* [=*moped around*] all day.

moon over *also US* ***moon after*** [*phrasal verb*] ***moon over/after (something or someone)*** : to spend too much time thinking about or looking at (someone or something that you admire or want very much) ▪ All the girls in the class are *mooning over* the handsome new teacher. ▪ fans *mooning after* movie stars

moon•beam /ˈmuːnˌbiːm/ *noun, pl* **-beams** [*count*] : a ray of light from the moon : a beam of moonlight ▪ *Moonbeams* shone through the leaves of the trees.

[1]moon•light /ˈmuːnˌlaɪt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the light of the moon ▪ A figure appeared in the *moonlight*. ▪ a *moonlight* cruise down the river = a cruise down the river by *moonlight*

do a moonlight flit *Brit, informal* : to leave a place secretly during the night especially to avoid paying money that you owe

[2]moonlight *verb* **-lights**; **-light•ed**; **-light•ing** [*no obj*] : to work at a second job in addition to your regular job ▪ She is a secretary who *moonlights* as a waitress on weekends.

– **moon•light•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

moon•lit /ˈmuːnˌlɪt/ *adj* : lighted by the moon ▪ a *moonlit* night/landscape/room

moon•roof /ˈmuːnˌruːf/ *noun, pl* **-roofs** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a part of a roof of a car or truck that is made of glass and that can be opened to let air in — compare SUNROOF

moon•scape /ˈmuːnˌskeɪp/ *noun, pl* **-scapes**

1 [*singular*] : the way the surface of the moon looks

2 [*count*] : a dry and empty place that looks like the surface of the moon ▪ The valley is a desolate *moonscape*.

moon•shine /ˈmuːnˌʃaɪn/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal*

1 *chiefly US* : a kind of alcohol that people make illegally ▪ a jug of *moonshine*

2 *Brit* : foolish or untrue words : NONSENSE ▪ Everything they said was just a load of *moonshine*.

– **moon•shin•er** /ˈmuːnˌʃaɪnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ an old *moonshiner* [=a person who makes moonshine]

moon•struck /ˈmuːnˌstrʌk/ *adj* : silly, foolish, or crazy especially because you are in love ▪ a celebrity mobbed by *moonstruck* teenage girls

moony /ˈmuːni/ *adj* **moon•i•er**; **-est** *chiefly US, informal* : full of romantic feelings : MOONSTRUCK ▪ *moony* teenagers

[1]moor /ˈmuɚ/ *noun, pl* **moors** [*count*] : a broad area of open land that is not good for farming — used especially to refer to land in Great Britain; usually plural ▪ We watched the sun setting over the *moors*.

[2]moor *verb* **moors**; **moored**; **moor•ing** : to hold (a boat or ship) in place with ropes or cables or with an anchor [+ *obj*] We found a harbor and *moored* the boat there for the night. ▪ The boat was *moored* alongside the dock. [*no obj*] We need to find a place to *moor* for the night.

Moor /ˈmuɚ/ *noun, pl* **Moors** [*count*] : a member of a group of North African Arab people who ruled parts of Spain from the eighth century until 1492

– **Moor•ish** /ˈmʊrɪʃ/ *adj* ▪ *Moorish* architecture ▪ a *Moorish* instrument

moor•ing /ˈmʊrɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 [*count*] : a place where a boat or ship can be anchored or moored ▪ We found a temporary *mooring* in the harbor. —

often plural ▪ We'll be renting private *moorings* there for the summer.

2 *moorings* [*plural*] : the anchors, ropes, and cables that are used to hold a boat or ship in place ▪ The wind was strong enough to tear the boat from its *moorings*. ▪ secure the *moorings*

moor•land /'muələnd/ *noun, pl* **-lands** : land that consists of moors [*noncount*] an area of open *moorland* [*count*] We hiked across the *moorlands*.

moose /'mu:s/ *noun, pl* **moose** [*count*] : a large animal with very large, flat antlers that lives in forests in the northern part of America, Europe, and Asia — see picture at DEER

[1]moot /'mu:t/ *adj*

1 : not certain : argued about but not possible for people to prove ▪ He says that they should have foreseen the accident, but that point is *moot*. [=*debatable*]

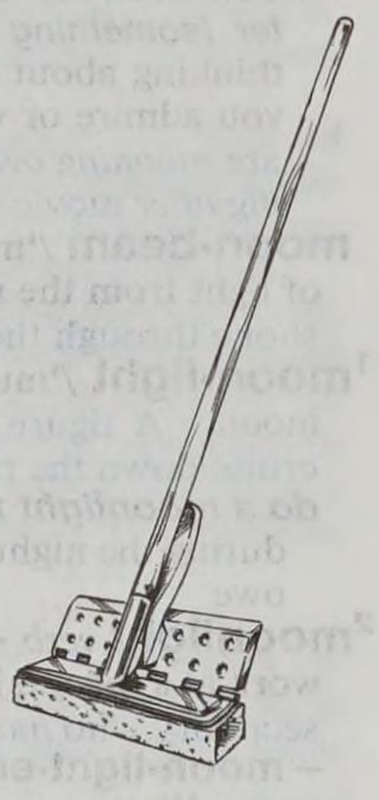
2 *US* : not worth talking about : no longer important or worth discussing ▪ The court ruled that the issue is now *moot* because the people involved in the dispute have died. ▪ I think they were wrong, but the point is *moot*. Their decision has been made and it can't be changed now.

[2]moot *verb* **moots; moot•ed; moot•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to introduce (an idea, subject, etc.) for discussion — usually used as *(be) mooted* ▪ The idea has *been mooted* in Congress, and it should be a topic of discussion for some time.

[1]mop /'ma:p/ *noun, pl* **mops** [*count*]

1 : a tool for cleaning floors that has a bundle of cloth or yarn or a sponge attached to a long handle

2 : a large amount of tangled or untidy hair on a person's head ▪ a *mop* of hair



mop

[2]mop *verb* **mops; mopped; mop•ping**

1 : to clean (a floor) with a mop [+ *obj*] The kitchen (floor) needs to be *mopped*. [*no obj*] I'm almost done *mopping*.

2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to wipe (something that is wet) ▪ He *mopped* his brow (dry) with a handkerchief. **b** : to wipe (a liquid) from something ▪ He *mopped* the sweat from/off his brow.

mop up [*phrasal verb*] **1 *mop (something) up or mop up (something)*** : to remove (a liquid) from a surface by using a mop, towel, etc. ▪ It will only take a moment to *mop up* the spill. ▪ She used the thick bread to *mop up* the last of her soup. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The movie *mopped up* all the awards. **2 *mop up or mop (something) up or mop up (something)*** *informal* : to do the final things that are needed to complete a job or task ▪ I'm almost done with the project. I just need a little more time to *mop up*. ▪ Just let me *mop up* [=*finish*] a few things and I'll be done. ▪ The battle has been won. The focus is now on *mopping up* small pockets of resistance. — see also MOP-UP

mope /'moʊp/ *verb* **mopes; moped; mop•ing** [*no obj*] *disapproving*

1 : to behave in a way that shows you are unhappy and depressed ▪ Like a little child, he often *moped* when he didn't get what he wanted.

2 : to move around slowly because you are unhappy — often + *around* or (*Brit*) *about* ▪ I was feeling depressed and just *moped around* all day. ▪ I spent hours just *moping around* the house.

mo•ped /'moʊˌpɛd/ *noun, pl* **-peds** [*count*] : a small motorcycle that can be pedaled like a bicycle — see picture at MOTORCYCLE

mop•pet /'ma:pət/ *noun, pl* **-pets** [*count*] *informal* : a young person : CHILD

mop–up /'ma:pˌʌp/ *noun* [*singular*] *informal* : the actions that complete a job or task after the more difficult parts have been done ▪ The project is almost done. All that's left is the *mop-up*. — often used before another noun ▪ *mop-up* duty ▪ the *mop-up* phase of operations — see also *mop up* at [2]MOP

[1]mor•al /'morəl/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* **a** : concerning or relating to what is right and wrong in human behavior ▪ The church takes a strong stand on a number of *moral* [=*ethical*] issues. ▪ The author avoids making *moral* judgments. ▪ *moral* arguments ▪ Each story teaches an important *moral* lesson. **b** : based on what you think is right and good ▪ He felt that he had a *moral* obligation/responsibility/duty to help the poor. ▪ He's a man with strong *moral* convictions. [=a man who believes strongly that some things are right and others are wrong] ▪ We're confident she has the *moral* fiber/fortitude to make the right decision.

2 a [*more ~; most ~*] : considered right and good by most people : agreeing with a standard of right behavior ▪ *moral* conduct ▪ Their behavior was not *moral*. ▪ a *moral* young man [=a young man who tries to behave in a moral way] — compare AMORAL, IMMORAL **b** : able to choose between right and wrong behavior ▪ Animals are not *moral* creatures and are not responsible for their actions.

moral authority ✧ A person, group, or organization that has *moral authority* is trusted to do what is right. ▪ The scandal has undermined the government's *moral authority*.

moral support ✧ Someone who gives you *moral support* helps you by supporting or encouraging you rather than by giving you money or practical help. ▪ She counted on her sisters for *moral support*.

moral victory ✧ If you achieve a *moral victory* you do not win anything but you achieve something that is important and good. ▪ Although they lost, the minority claimed the vote as a *moral victory* since they had won the support of so many former opponents.

[2]moral *noun, pl* **-als**

1 [*count*] : a lesson that is learned from a story or an experience ▪ The *moral* of the story is to be satisfied with what you have. ▪ the movie's *moral* ▪ The *moral* here is: pay attention to the warning lights in your car.

2 *morals* [*plural*] : proper ideas and beliefs about how to behave in a way that is considered right and good by most people ▪ No one questions her *morals*. [=no one doubts that she is a good person who tries to behave in a moral way] ▪ Socrates was accused of corrupting the *morals* of the youth of Athens. ▪ He has no *morals*. [=he is not a good or honest person] ▪ The author points to recent cases of fraud as evidence of the lack of *morals* in the business world. ▪ a person with/of ***loose morals*** [=a person whose behavior and especially whose sexual behavior is considered morally wrong by some people]

mo•rale /mə'ræl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the feelings of enthusiasm and loyalty that a person or group has about a task or job ▪ The company has been struggling and employee *morale* is low. [=employees do not feel happy or enthusiastic about their work] ▪ The team is playing well and their *morale* is high. ▪ The President's speech boosted/raised/improved the *morale* of the troops.

mor•al•ist /'morəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] *usually disapproving* : a person who has strong feelings and opinions about what is right and who tries to control the moral behavior of other people

mor•al•is•tic /ˌmorə'lɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *disapproving* : having or showing strong opinions about what is right behavior and what is wrong behavior ▪ While a *moralistic* speech won't convince kids not to try drugs, a story about people affected by drugs might. ▪ a *moralistic* tone/attitude

mo•ral•i•ty /mə'rælətɪ/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 : beliefs about what is right behavior and what is wrong behavior [*noncount*] the changing cultural *morality* ▪ The group is calling for a return to traditional *morality*. ▪ Christian *morality* [*count*] two groups with clashing *moralities*

2 [*noncount*] : the degree to which something is right and good : the moral goodness or badness of something ▪ The decision may be legally justified, but I question its *morality*. — usually + *of* ▪ We discussed the *morality of* telling lies to protect someone.

mor•al•ize *also Brit* **mor•al•ise** /'morəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es; -ized; -iz•ing** [*no obj*] *usually disapproving* : to express beliefs about what is good behavior and what is bad behavior ▪ an essay *moralizing* about the evils of alcohol ▪ *moralizing* judgments/statements

– **mor•al•iz•er** *also Brit* **mor•al•is•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

mor•al•ly /'morəlɪ/ *adv* : according to what is considered right and good by most people ▪ a *morally* good person ▪ She behaved in a way that was *morally* wrong/right. ▪ She felt *morally* obligated to help. ▪ He acted *morally*. [=in a moral way] ▪ She seems to think she's *morally* superior to the rest of us. ▪ His behavior cannot be *morally* justified.

mo•rass /mə'ræs/ *noun, pl* **-rass•es** [*count*] : an area of soft, wet ground : a marsh or swamp — usually singular ▪ a *morass* of muck — usually used figuratively to refer to a complicated or unpleasant situation that is difficult to get

out of or to move through ▪ a legal *morass* ▪ trying to find our way through a *morass* of city traffic

mor•a•to•ri•um /ˌmorəˈtorijəm/ *noun, pl* **-to•ri•ums** *or* **-to•ria** /-ˈtorijə/ [*count*] : a time when a particular activity is not allowed ▪ The treaty calls for a nuclear testing *moratorium*. — often + *on* ▪ a *moratorium on* nuclear testing ▪ City officials declared a *moratorium on* building more houses in that part of the city.

mor•bid /ˈmoɚbəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : relating to unpleasant subjects (such as death) ▪ She has a *morbid* interest in funerals. ▪ He has a *morbid* sense of humor. ▪ a *morbid* fascination with death ▪ wanting to learn about a celebrity's downfall out of *morbid* curiosity
2 *technical* : not healthy or normal ▪ suffering from a *morbid* condition ▪ *morbid* obesity ▪ The child has a *morbid* fear/horror of snakes.
– **mor•bid•ly** *adv* ▪ She was *morbidly* fascinated with death. ▪ *morbidly* obese

mor•dant /ˈmoɚdn̩t/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : expressing harsh criticism especially in a way that is funny ▪ a writer famous for her *mordant* humor/wit
– **mor•dant•ly** *adv* ▪ *mordantly* funny/witty novels

[1]more /ˈmoɚ/ *adj*
1 : greater in amount, number, or size ▪ I felt *more* pain after the procedure, not less. ▪ The new engine has even *more* power. ▪ You like *more* sugar in your tea than I do. ▪ He had done *more* harm than he had intended. ▪ ***More and more*** people [=an increasingly large number of people] are using e-mail these days. ▪ The company has ***more than*** [=*over*] 2,000 employees. [=the number of employees is greater than 2,000] ▪ Choose ***no/not more than*** three options. [=choose three options or fewer]
2 : extra or additional ▪ I bought *more* apples. ▪ The series will have five *more* episodes. ▪ The company hired a few *more* employees. ▪ I offered him some *more* coffee. ▪ One *more* thing and then I'm leaving. ▪ Can you say that one *more* time? ▪ She wants *more* money.

[2]more *adv*
1 : to a greater degree or extent ▪ The shot hurt *more* than I expected. ▪ This cake is pretty good, but I'd like it (even) *more* if it had chocolate frosting. ▪ It happens *more* often than it used to. ▪ The building looks *more* like a museum than a library. ▪ *more* active/important ▪ *more* actively/importantly ▪ The players grew *more* intense as the game went on. ▪ She wanted a *more* sporty car. [=a sportier car] ▪ To me, there's nothing *more* exciting than playing football. ▪ She *more* closely resembles her aunt than her mother. ▪ He struggled to find a *more* comfortable position. ▪ a *more* complex explanation ▪ It's the same product—they've done nothing *more* than change the label. ▪ It's getting ***more and more*** difficult [=increasingly difficult] to distinguish fake diamonds from real ones. ▪ The fact that they'd written the play themselves made it ***all the more*** impressive. [=made it even more impressive]
2 : more often or for a longer period of time ▪ You need to help (out) with the housework *more*. = You need to help (out) *more* with the housework. ▪ She's a better piano player than I am because she practices *more* (than I do). ▪ You need to work on it (some) *more*.
3 : in addition ▪ wait one day *more* ▪ a couple of times *more* ▪ What *more* could you ask for?
4 — used to say that one way of describing a person or thing is better or more accurate than another ▪ She is *more* an acquaintance than a friend. = She's an acquaintance *more* than she is a friend.
more like it see [3]LIKE
more or less **1** : not completely but to a great degree ▪ The clothes are *more or less* [=*mostly*] dry. ▪ The problem is *more or less* [=(*informal*) *pretty much*] fixed now. ▪ They were *more or less* willing. ▪ The building remains *more or less* [=*essentially*] intact. ▪ The business has remained *more or less* [=*fairly, reasonably*] successful. **2** — used to indicate that a number, amount, time, etc., is not exact or certain ▪ The garden contains five acres, *more or less*. [=about/approximately five acres] ▪ It should take you 20 minutes, *more or less*. [=it should take you about/approximately 20 minutes] ▪ I divided it into six *more or less* equal parts. [=into six approximately equal parts]
more than : to a great degree : VERY, EXTREMELY ▪ Please call me anytime. I'm *more than* happy to help (out) in any way I can. ✧ A clause that includes *more than* is often followed by another clause that gives more information or limits the first clause in some way. ▪ I am *more than* happy to help you, but I'd appreciate being asked politely. ▪ You are *more than* [=*entirely*] welcome to stay for dinner, but we aren't having anything special.
more than a little : to a great degree : VERY, EXTREMELY ▪ He was *more than a little* surprised by her decision.
once more see [1]ONCE
what's more see [1]WHAT

[3]more *pronoun* : a greater number or amount ▪ *More* [=more people] were found as the search continued. ▪ We're waiting until *more* [=more information] is known. ▪ I need to spend less and save *more*. ▪ You have *more* than everyone else. ▪ I'm too full to eat (any) *more*. ▪ If these estimates are correct, we'll need much/far/even *more*. ▪ It costs a little *more* but it's worth it. ▪ People are often willing to pay *more* for a better product. ▪ We got *more* than we expected. ▪ (We'll have) *More* on the weather later. ▪ We need 22 boxes—no *more*, no less. ▪ ***More and more*** of them [=an increasingly large number of them] are willing to try. ▪ People expect *more and more* from their computers. ▪ We've been hearing *more and more* about this issue in recent months.
little more than see [2]LITTLE
more of — used to say that one way of describing a person or thing is better or more accurate than another ▪ It's *more of* a guess than an estimate. ▪ No, I wouldn't call the color red—it's *more of* a maroon.
more's the pity see [1]PITY
more than meets the eye see [1]EYE
the more the merrier see MERRY

more•over /moɚˈoʊvɚ/ *adv, somewhat formal* : in addition to what has been said ▪ It probably wouldn't work. *Moreover* [=*furthermore, besides, in addition*], it would be very expensive to try it. ▪ The cameras will deter potential criminals. *Moreover*, they will help police a great deal when a crime actually is committed.

mo•res /ˈmoɚˌeɪz/ *noun* [*plural*] : the customs, values, and behaviors that are accepted by a particular group, culture, etc. ▪ social *mores* ▪ society's changing *mores* ▪ current cultural/sexual *mores*

morgue /ˈmoɚg/ *noun, pl* **morgues** [*count*]
1 : a place where the bodies of dead people are kept until they are buried or cremated ▪ the city *morgue* ▪ a hospital *morgue* — often used figuratively or in the phrase ***like a morgue*** to describe a place that is very quiet and sad ▪ The locker room was a *morgue* after the team lost yet another game. ▪ The locker room was *like a morgue*. — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *mortuary*
2 *US* : a place in the editorial offices of a newspaper, magazine, etc., where old articles and other documents are kept ▪ old news stories found in a newspaper *morgue*

mor•i•bund /ˈmorəˌbʌnd/ *adj, formal*
1 : no longer active or effective : close to failure ▪ an actor who is trying to revive his *moribund* career ▪ a *moribund* economy/industry ▪ The peace talks are *moribund*.
2 : very sick : close to death ▪ The patient was *moribund*. ▪ *moribund* [=*dying*] trees

Mor•mon /ˈmoɚmən/ *noun, pl* **-mons** [*count*] : a member of a Christian church that was founded by Joseph Smith in the U.S. in 1830 : a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
– **Mormon** *adj* ▪ a *Mormon* church – **Mor•mon•ism** /ˈmoɚməˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]

morn /ˈmoɚn/ *noun, pl* **morns** *literary* : MORNING [*count*] a frosty winter *morn* ▪ early in the *morn* [*noncount*] from *morn* to night

morn•ing /ˈmoɚnɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**
1 a : the early part of the day : the time of day from sunrise until noon [*count*] She liked to get things done early in the *morning*. ▪ I worked in the yard for part of the *morning*. ▪ I saw him this *morning*, and I'll be meeting with him again tomorrow *morning*. ▪ We have a meeting scheduled for 10 o'clock Wednesday *morning*. ▪ On Sunday *mornings* I like to relax and read the newspaper. ▪ She arrived on the *morning* of March 18. ▪ the *morning* after a storm ▪ that night and the next/following *morning* = that night and ***the morning after*** ▪ I'll talk to you again ***in the morning***. [=I'll talk to you again early tomorrow] [*noncount*] It was early/late *morning* when I woke. ▪ We sat around drinking coffee all *morning*. ▪ We won't find out until *morning*. ▪ (*literary*) *Morning* has broken. [=the sun has risen; it is dawn] — often used before another noun ▪ the *morning* sun/light ▪ my *morning* (cup of) coffee [=the coffee I drink every morning] ▪ My brother is a night

owl/person, but I'm a ***morning person***. [=a person who likes the early part of the day; a person who has the most energy in the morning] **b** [*noncount*] : the part of the day between midnight and noon ▪ The party continued into the wee/small hours of the *morning*. [=after midnight] ▪ The phone rang at 2 o'clock in the *morning*. [=at 2 a.m.]

2 — used informally to say hello to someone in the morning ▪ *Morning*. [=*good morning*] How are you today?

morning, noon, and night : during all times of the day : all the time ▪ The system is operating *morning, noon, and night*. ▪ We've been working *morning, noon, and night* [=many hours each day] to get the project finished on time. — see also MORNINGS

morning–after pill *noun, pl* ~ **pills** [*count*] : a pill that a woman takes after having sex so that she will not become pregnant

morning coat *noun, pl* ~ **coats** [*count*] : a type of formal black coat worn by men with some suits ▪ The groom wore a *morning coat*.

morning glory *noun, pl* ~ **-ries** [*count*] : a plant that has many brightly colored flowers that open in the morning — see color picture on page C6

morn•ings /'moɚnɪŋz/ *adv* : in the morning ▪ She works *mornings* in the kitchen of a small local restaurant. ▪ *Mornings*, I like to weed the garden.

morning sickness *noun* [*noncount*] : a feeling of sickness that a pregnant woman may feel especially early in the morning : a feeling of nausea caused by pregnancy

morning star *noun*

the morning star : the planet Venus when it can be seen in the eastern sky in the early morning — compare EVENING STAR

mo•ron /'moɚˌɑ:n/ *noun, pl* **-rons** [*count*] *informal* : a very stupid or foolish person : IDIOT ▪ They were acting like a bunch of *morons*. ▪ I can't believe I did something so stupid. I feel like a complete *moron*. ▪ an utter *moron*

– **mo•ron•ic** /mə'rɑ:nɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ That's the most *moronic* thing I've ever heard. ▪ *moronic* behavior ▪ *moronic* humor – **mo•ron•i•cal•ly** /mə'rɑ:nɪkli/ *adv* ▪ They were behaving *moronically*.

mo•rose /mə'roʊs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 *of a person* : very serious, unhappy, and quiet ▪ He became *morose* and withdrawn and would not talk to anyone.

2 : very sad or unhappy ▪ *morose* song lyrics ▪ *morose* thoughts

– **mo•rose•ly** *adv* ▪ gazing/staring *morosely* at the sad scene ▪ "I lost," she said *morosely*. – **mo•rose•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

morph /'moɚf/ *verb* **morphs**; **morphed**; **morph•ing**

1 *of an image on a screen* : to gradually change into a different image [*no obj*] The picture of a dog *morphed* into a picture of a cat. [+ *obj*] Using the new software, we *morphed* a picture of a dog into a picture of a cat.

2 : to change gradually and completely from one thing into another thing usually in a way that is surprising or that seems magical [*no obj*] a quiet college student who has *morphed* into a glamorous actress [+ *obj*] He is trying to *morph* himself into a different person.

mor•pheme /'moɚˌfi:m/ *noun, pl* **-phemes** [*count*] *linguistics* : a word or a part of a word that has a meaning and that contains no smaller part that has a meaning ▪ The word "pins" contains two *morphemes*: "pin" and the plural suffix "-s."

– **mor•phe•mic** /moɚ'fi:mɪk/ *adj*

mor•phine /'moɚˌfi:n/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a powerful drug made from opium that is used to reduce pain ▪ a shot/dose of *morphine*

mor•phol•o•gy /moɚ'fɑ:lədʒi/ *noun, pl* **-gies**

1 [*noncount*] *linguistics* : the study and description of how words are formed in language

2 *biology* **a** [*noncount*] : the study of the form and structure of animals and plants **b** : the form and structure of a plant or animal or any of its parts [*noncount*] plants with unusual *morphology* [*count*] plants with unusual *morphologies*

– **mor•pho•log•i•cal** /ˌmoɚfə'lɑ:dʒɪkəl/ *adj*

mor•row /'mɑroʊ/ *noun, pl* **-rows** *old-fashioned + literary*

1 : MORNING [*noncount*] "Good-night, good-night! parting is such sweet sorrow / That I shall say good-night till it be *morrow*." —Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet* [*count*] "Many ***good morrows*** to my noble lord!" —Shakespeare, *Richard III*

2 ***the morrow*** : the next day ▪ We don't know what *the morrow* may bring. [=we don't know what may happen in the future] ▪ We expect them to arrive ***on the morrow***. [=*tomorrow*]

Morse code /'moɚs-/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a system of sending messages that uses long and short sounds, flashes of light, or marks to represent letters and numbers

mor•sel /'moɚsəl/ *noun, pl* **-sels** [*count*] : a small piece of food ▪ tender *morsels* of beef ▪ bite-size *morsels* ▪ She ate every *morsel*. ▪ a tasty/delicious *morsel* — often used figuratively ▪ a juicy *morsel* of gossip

¹mor•tal /'moɚtl/ *adj*

1 : certain to die ▪ Every living creature is *mortal*. — opposite ¹IMMORTAL

2 a : causing death : FATAL ▪ He suffered a *mortal* wound in the battle. ▪ a *mortal* injury/blow — often used figuratively ▪ She claims that the proposed law would deal/strike a *mortal* blow to many small businesses. [=would cause many small businesses to fail] ***synonyms*** see ¹DEADLY **b** : possibly causing death ▪ facing *mortal* danger ▪ two gladiators locked in ***mortal combat*** [=a fight that will result in the death of the loser; a fight to the death] **c** : relating to or connected with death ▪ *mortal* agony — see also *mortal remains* at REMAINS

3 *always used before a noun* : very great or severe ▪ She lived in *mortal* fear/terror/dread of being betrayed. [=she was very afraid of being betrayed]

mortal enemy *also* ***mortal foe/rival*** : someone you hate very much and for a long time ▪ They've been *mortal enemies* for many years.

– **mor•tal•ly** /'moɚtl̩i/ *adv* ▪ He was *mortally* [=*fatally*] wounded in the battle. ▪ She is *mortally* [=(more commonly) *terminally*] ill with cancer. ▪ I'm *mortally* [=*extremely*] afraid of snakes.

²mortal *noun, pl* **-tals** [*count*] : a human being ▪ stories about gods interfering in the lives of *mortals* ▪ the troubles that come to ordinary *mortals* — often used humorously ▪ He's a big star now. He doesn't waste his time talking to mere/lesser *mortals* [=*people*] like you and me. — compare ²IMMORTAL

mor•tal•i•ty /moɚ'tæləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being a person or thing that is alive and therefore certain to die : the quality or state of being mortal ▪ The news of her cousin's death reminded her of her own *mortality*. [=reminded her that she would also die some day] — opposite IMMORTALITY

2 : the death of a person, animal, etc. [*count*] cancer *mortalities* [=deaths caused by cancer] [*noncount*] a leading cause of *mortality*

3 [*noncount*] : the number of deaths that occur in a particular time or place ▪ a decrease in cancer *mortality* [=a decrease in the number of people dying from cancer] ▪ The government is trying to reduce ***infant mortality***. = The government is trying to reduce the ***mortality rate*** among infants. [=trying to reduce the number of infants who die each year]

mortal sin *noun, pl* ~ **sins** [*count*] *in the Roman Catholic Church* : a sin (such as murder) that will result in punishment that lasts forever unless the person who has sinned sincerely confesses to God and asks to be forgiven ▪ commit a *mortal sin* — compare VENIAL SIN

mor•tar /'moɚtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tars**

1 [*count*] : a heavy, deep bowl in which seeds, spices, etc., are pounded or crushed with a heavy tool (called a pestle)

2 [*count*] : a military weapon used to fire shells (sense 5a) high into the air at a low speed ▪ fire/shoot a *mortar* — often used before another noun ▪ The soldiers came under *mortar* fire. ▪ a *mortar* attack

3 [*noncount*] : a wet substance that is spread between bricks or stones and that holds them together when it hardens ▪ seal the joints with *mortar* — see also BRICK-AND-MORTAR, *bricks and mortar* at ¹BRICK

– **mortar** *verb* **-tars**; **-tared**; **-tar•ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ a building *mortared* with mud ▪ bricks *mortared* together

mor•tar•board /'moɚtɚˌboɚd/ *noun, pl* **-boards** [*count*] : a hat with a flat square top that is worn for special ceremonies at some schools ▪ The students donned robes and *mortarboards* for graduation.

¹mort•gage /'moɚgɪdʒ/ *noun, pl* **-gag•es** [*count*] : a legal agreement in which a person borrows money to buy property (such as a house) and pays back the money over a period of years ▪ He will have to take out a *mortgage* in order to buy the house. ▪ a 30-year *mortgage* ▪ a $50,000 *mortgage* ▪ They hope to pay off the *mortgage* on their home soon. — often used before another noun ▪ a *mortgage* agreement/banker/lender/loan ▪ *Mortgage* rates are down. — see also REVERSE MORTGAGE

²mortgage *verb* **-gages**; **-gaged**; **-gag•ing** [+ *obj*] : to give someone a legal claim on (property that you own) in exchange for money that you will pay back over a period of years • She *mortgaged* her house in order to buy the restaurant.

mortgage the/your future *chiefly US, disapproving* : to borrow a large amount of money that will have to be paid back in the future or to do something that may cause problems for you in the future • The city has *mortgaged its future* to pay for the new stadium. • Some critics say that she has *mortgaged her political future* on a program that is likely to fail.

mort•gag•ee /ˌmoəgɪˈʤi:/ *noun, pl* **-ees** [*count*] *law* : a person or organization (such as a bank) that lends money to someone for buying property

mort•gag•or /ˌmoəgɪˈʤoə/ *also* **mort•gag•er** /ˈmoəgɪʤə/ *noun, pl* **-ors** *also* **-ers** [*count*] *law* : a person who borrows money for buying property : a person who takes out a mortgage in order to buy property

mor•ti•cian /moəˈtɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-cians** [*count*] *US, formal* : a person whose job is to prepare dead people to be buried and to arrange and manage funerals : UNDERTAKER

mor•ti•fy /ˈmoətəˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to feel very embarrassed and foolish • Her behavior *mortified* her parents. = Her parents were *mortified* by her behavior. • It *mortified* me to have to admit that I'd never actually read the book.

– **mor•ti•fi•ca•tion** /ˌmoətəfəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] • He was filled with *mortification* when he realized his mistake. • Imagine my *mortification* when I realized who she was!

– **mortified** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • I was completely *mortified* when I realized who she was. – **mortifying** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • a completely *mortifying* experience

– **mor•ti•fy•ing•ly** *adv* • a *mortifyingly* stupid mistake

mortis see RIGOR MORTIS

mor•tise *also Brit* **mor•tice** /ˈmoətəs/ *noun, pl* **-tis•es** [*count*] *technical* : a hole that is cut in a piece of wood or other material so that another piece (called a tenon) will fit into it to form a connection

mortise lock *or Brit* **mortice lock** *noun, pl* ~ **locks** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : DEAD BOLT

¹mor•tu•ary /ˈmoəʧəˌweri, *Brit* ˈmɔ:ʧuəri/ *noun, pl* **-ar•ies** [*count*]

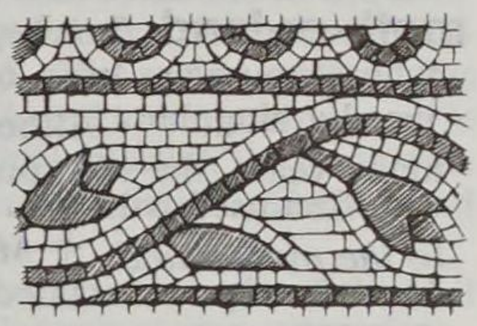
1 *US* : FUNERAL HOME

2 *chiefly Brit* : MORGUE 1 • a hospital *mortuary*

²mortuary *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : of or relating to death or burial • *mortuary* ceremonies/customs/rituals

mo•sa•ic /moʊˈzejɪk/ *noun, pl* **-ics**

1 : a decoration on a surface made by pressing small pieces of colored glass or stone into a soft material that then hardens to make pictures or patterns [*count*] a church decorated with old *mosaics* [*noncount*] a picture done in *mosaic* — often used before another noun • a *mosaic* floor • *mosaic* glass/tiles



mosaic

2 [*count*] : something made up of different things that together form a pattern — usually singular • a complex *mosaic* of islands • the country's ethnic/political/religious/social *mosaic*

mo•sey /ˈmoʊzi/ *verb* **mo•seys**; **mo•seyed**; **mo•sey•ing** [*no obj*] *US, informal* : to walk or move in a slow and relaxed way • I think I'll *mosey* (on) over to the post office and see if the mail has come in yet. • He *moseyed* up to the bar.

mosey along [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to go away : LEAVE • I'm finished here, so I'll just *mosey along* now.

mosh /ˈmɑ:ʃ/ *verb* **mosh•es**; **moshed**; **mosh•ing** [*no obj*] *informal* : to dance in a wild and rough way near the stage at a rock concert

– **mosh•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

mosh pit *noun, pl* ~ **pits** [*count*] *informal* : an area in front of a stage at a rock concert where people dance in a wild and rough way

Mos•lem /ˈmɑ:zləm/ *variant spelling of* MUSLIM ✧ The spelling *Moslem* is old-fashioned and is sometimes considered offensive. It should be avoided.

mosque /ˈmɑ:sk/ *noun, pl* **mosques** [*count*] : a building that is used for Muslim religious services

mos•qui•to /məˈski:toʊ/ *noun, pl* **-toes** *also* **-tos** [*count*] : a small flying insect that bites the skin of people and animals and sucks their blood • a swarm of *mosquitoes* • the bite of a *mosquito* = a *mosquito* bite ✧ Mosquitoes sometimes spread serious diseases like malaria. — see color picture on page C10

mosquito net *noun, pl* ~ **nets** [*count*] : a net that is placed over something (such as a bed) in order to keep out mosquitoes

moss /ˈmɑ:s/ *noun, pl* **moss•es** : a type of green plant that has very small leaves and no flowers and that grows on rocks, bark, or wet ground [*noncount*] *Moss* covered the fallen logs. [*count*] ferns and *mosses* — see also PEAT MOSS, SPANISH MOSS

– **moss•like** /ˈmɑ:sˌlaɪk/ *adj* – **mossy** /ˈmɑ:si/ *adj* **moss•i•er**; **-est** • a *mossy* roof [=a roof covered with moss] • *mossy* rocks/stones

¹most /ˈmoʊst/ *adj*

1 : almost all : the majority of — usually used before a plural noun • *Most* people believe this. • *Most* eligible voters went to the polls. • I'm afraid of *most* dogs, but not this one. • I like *most* foods.

2 : greatest in amount or degree • Choosing a color took the *most* time. • That family owned the *most* land. • Unfortunately the negative aspects of our schools get the *most* attention.

for the most part **1** : almost all or almost completely • Menu items are, *for the most part*, under $5. [=almost all the menu items cost less than $5] • We wanted to keep it simple, and I think we were successful *for the most part*. **2** — used to describe a condition or situation that usually exists or is true • Streets fill with people during the festival, but *for the most part* [=*usually, most of the time*] it's a quiet, sleepy town.

²most *adv*

1 : in or to the greatest degree • Of all the gifts he received that day, the book pleased him *most*. • What matters *most* to you? • The island is the *most* southern in the chain. • You'll benefit *most* from the exercises if you do them every day. • *most* active/important • *most* actively/importantly • It's the *most* challenging job she has ever had. • the *most* beautiful woman there • Even the *most* careful of us make mistakes. • the *most* common/popular kind • The report shows the intersections at which accidents are *most* likely to occur. • the *most* widely used treatment

2 *somewhat formal* : to a great extent : VERY • He is a *most* careful driver. • Their argument was *most* persuasive.

– compare ⁵MOST

³most *noun*

at most *or* ***at the most*** : not more than a specified amount, level, etc. • It took an hour *at most*. [=it took no more than an hour; it took an hour or less than an hour] • She only worked here for a month or two *at the most*. • It costs, *at most*, only a few dollars. • This is worth $10 *at most*.

make the most of : to use (something) in a way that will get the best result • She was determined to *make the most of* the opportunity.

the most : something of the greatest importance, strength, value, etc. • *The most* I can give you is $10. [=I can give you $10, but I can't give you more than $10] • Is that *the most* you can do? • You'll need to make wise investments if you want get *the most* out of your money. • A second chance is *the most* we can hope for now. • He tries hard, but that's *the most* [=*all*] we can say for him. [=the best thing we can say about him is that he tries hard]

⁴most *pronoun*

1 : the largest number of people or things • Some people kept working, but *most* became discouraged and quit. • Some of the chairs were broken but *most* were in good condition. • *Most* (of the people) who were present voted in favor of the proposal. • *Most* of them will appreciate the offer. • She was more fragile than *most*.

2 : the largest part of something • *Most* of it is hidden from view. • They spent *most* of the decade overseas.

⁵most *adv, US, informal* : very nearly : ALMOST — usually used with the adjectives *all, every*, and *any*; the pronouns *all, everyone, everything, everybody, anyone, anything*, and *anybody*; and the adverbs *everywhere, anywhere*, and *always* • The cost of *most everything* is higher. • *Most anyone* can go. • *most everywhere* in the country • We'll be arriving *most any* time now. • They *most always* skip lunch. — compare ²MOST

-most /moʊst/ *adj suffix* : in or to the greatest degree : MOST • inner*most* • outer*most* • top*most*

most•ly /ˈmoʊstli/ *adv*
1 — used to say that a statement you are making is true or correct at most times or that it describes a usual situation or condition ▪ He gets around *mostly* [=*mainly, chiefly*] by car. [=he usually uses a car to get around] ▪ "What did you do this weekend?" "I worked in the yard, *mostly*." [=I spent most of my time working in the yard] ▪ I concentrated *mostly* [=*mainly*] on getting good grades when I was in college.
2 : almost all or almost completely ▪ The story was *mostly* accurate. [=most of the story was accurate] ▪ The people at the concert were *mostly* older people. [=most of the people were older people]

MOT /ˌɛmˌoʊˈtiː/ *noun, pl* **MOTs** *or* **MOT's** [*count*] *Brit* : an official test of all cars and other vehicles in Britain that are more than three years old to make sure that they are safe to drive — called also *MOT test*

mote /ˈmoʊt/ *noun, pl* **motes** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a very small piece of dust, dirt, etc. ▪ a *mote* [=*speck*] of dust ▪ dust *motes*

mo•tel /moʊˈtɛl/ *noun, pl* **-tels** [*count*] : a place that is next to a road and that has rooms for people to stay in especially when they are traveling by car ✧ The rooms of a motel are usually reached directly from an outdoor parking lot.

moth /ˈmɑːθ/ *noun, pl* **moths** /ˈmɑðz/ [*count*] : a kind of insect that is similar to a butterfly but that flies mostly at night and is usually less colorful — see color picture on page C10; see also GYPSY MOTH ✧ Some types of small moths eat holes in clothing.

[1]moth•ball /ˈmɑːθˌbɑːl/ *noun, pl* **-balls**
1 [*count*] : a small ball that contains a strong-smelling chemical and that is used to keep moths away from stored clothing
2 *mothballs* [*plural*] — used in phrases like ***in/into mothballs*** and ***out of mothballs*** to describe something that is stored without being used for a long time ▪ Many ships in the navy's fleet were put *in mothballs* after the war. ▪ a computer system that has gone *into mothballs* ▪ The old ship is being taken *out of mothballs*. — sometimes used to describe a person (such as a performer) who has not been seen for a long time ▪ an old comedian who is being brought *out of mothballs* to star in a new television show

[2]mothball *verb* **-balls; -balled; -ball•ing** [+ *obj*] : to stop using (something) while keeping it to be possibly used in the future ▪ Many navy ships were *mothballed* after the war.

moth–eat•en /ˈmɑːθˌiːtn̩/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having holes caused by moths : eaten into by moths ▪ a *moth-eaten* sweater/sofa — often used figuratively ▪ a *moth-eaten* [=*outdated, antiquated*] computer system

[1]moth•er /ˈmʌðɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers**
1 [*count*] : a female parent ▪ She became a *mother* when she was in her 20s. ▪ She's the *mother* of three small children. ▪ She has been like a *mother* to me. ▪ Our dog is the *mother* of all those puppies. ▪ She has always been close to her *mother*. ▪ an ***expectant mother*** [=a woman who is pregnant] ▪ She is a ***single mother*** [=a mother who does not have a husband or partner] — see also BIRTH MOTHER, GRANDMOTHER, QUEEN MOTHER, STEPMOTHER, SURROGATE MOTHER
2 [*count*] : a woman who is thought of as being like a mother ▪ She was a *mother* to me after my own mother died. — see also DEN MOTHER
3 a [*count*] : a woman who invents or begins something — usually singular ▪ She is regarded as the *mother* of an entire industry. ▪ the *mother* of an important social movement **b** [*singular*] : a cause or origin of something ▪ Some say that scandal is the *mother* of reform.
4 [*count*] : MOTHER SUPERIOR — used especially as a title or as a form of address ▪ *Mother* Teresa ▪ Thank you, *Mother*.
5 [*singular*] *informal* — used to say that something is larger, better, worse, etc., than all other things of the same kind ▪ It has been described as ***the mother of all*** construction projects. [=an extremely large construction project]
6 [*count*] *US, offensive* : MOTHERFUCKER ▪ That guy is one mean *mother*.
learn (something) at your mother's knee see [1]KNEE
necessity is the mother of invention — used to say that new ways to do things are found or created when there is a strong and special need for them
– moth•er•hood /ˈmʌðɚˌhʊd/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She is looking forward to marriage and *motherhood*. **– moth•er•less** /ˈmʌðɚləs/ *adj* ▪ Her death left three *motherless* children. ▪ a *motherless* calf

[2]mother *verb* **-ers; -ered; -er•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to give birth to (a child) ▪ She *mothered* two sons but no daughters.
2 : to be or act as mother to (someone) : to care for or protect (someone) like a mother ▪ He says he's old enough to care for himself and he doesn't want to be *mothered*. [=he doesn't want to be cared for as if he were a child]
– moth•er•ing /ˈmʌðərɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a sensitive child who needs careful *mothering* **– mothering** *adj* ▪ her *mothering* [=*maternal*] abilities/instincts

moth•er•board /ˈmʌðɚˌboɚd/ *noun, pl* **-boards** [*count*] : the main circuit board of a computer

mother country *noun, pl* ~ **-tries** [*count*]
1 : the country where people who live in a colony or former colony came from — usually singular; usually used with *the* ▪ The colonies rebelled against *the mother country*.
2 : the country where you were born or where your family came from : MOTHERLAND — usually singular ▪ Her books have sold better abroad than in her *mother country*. — often used with *the* ▪ an immigrant's nostalgia for *the mother country*

Mother Earth *noun* [*singular*] — used to refer to the planet Earth as a woman or a goddess ▪ to respect/worship *Mother Earth* ▪ We must protect the resources of *Mother Earth*.

mother figure *noun, pl* ~ **-ures** [*count*] : an older woman who is respected and admired like a mother ▪ Camp counselors are *mother figures* to many of the girls at the camp.

moth•er•fuck•er /ˈmʌðɚˌfʌkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly US, offensive*
1 : an annoying person or thing ▪ a stupid *motherfucker*
2 : a person or thing that is impressive in some way ▪ He's a strong *motherfucker*. ✧ This is one of the most offensive words in U.S. English and should be avoided.

moth•er•fuck•ing /ˈmʌdɚˌfʌkɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US, offensive* — used to make an angry statement more forceful ▪ a *motherfucking* jerk ✧ This is one of the most offensive words in U.S. English and should be avoided.

mother hen *noun, pl* ~ **hens** [*count*] : a person who worries about, cares for, or watches over other people in a way that is annoying or unwanted ▪ a football coach who fusses over his players like a *mother hen*

Mothering Sunday *noun, pl* ~ **-days** [*count, noncount*] *Brit, old-fashioned* : MOTHER'S DAY

moth•er–in–law /ˈmʌðɚɹənˌlɑː/ *noun, pl* **moth•ers–in–law** /ˈmʌðɚzənˌlɑː/ [*count*] : the mother of your husband or wife

mother–in–law apartment *noun, pl* ~ **-ments** [*count*] *US* : IN-LAW APARTMENT

moth•er•land /ˈmʌðɚˌlænd/ *noun* [*count*] : the country where you were born or where your family came from — usually singular ▪ Although she had lived in America for many years, she still spoke the language of her *motherland*. — often used with *the* ▪ The whole family wanted to return to *the motherland*. ✧ *Motherland* can refer to any country, but it is often associated especially with Russia. — compare FATHERLAND

mother lode *noun, pl* ~ **lodes** [*count*] *chiefly US* : the place where the largest amount of gold, silver, etc., in a particular area can be found — usually singular ▪ a gold miner who struck/hit the *mother lode* [=who found the place containing the largest amount of gold] — often used figuratively ▪ The library's collection of old newspapers has proven to be a *mother lode* of information about the town's early history.

moth•er•ly /ˈmʌðɚli/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : of a mother ▪ She took her *motherly* duties very seriously. ▪ *motherly* [=*maternal*] instincts : resembling a mother ▪ a *motherly* nurse : showing the affection or concern of a mother ▪ *motherly* advice

Mother Nature *noun* [*singular*] — used to refer to the natural world as if it were a woman ▪ the forces of *Mother Nature* ▪ an athlete whose talents are a gift from *Mother Nature*

moth•er–of–pearl /ˌmʌðɚɹəvˈpɚl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a hard, shiny, and smooth substance that is on the insides of the shells of some shellfish (such as mussels) and that is used to decorate objects (such as buttons)

Mother's Day *noun, pl* ~ **Days** [*count, noncount*] : the second Sunday in May in the U.S. and the fourth Sunday in Lent in Britain treated as a special day for honoring mothers

mother ship *noun, pl* ~ **ships** [*count*] : a large ship or spaceship that sends out boats or smaller spaceships to explore, do scientific research, etc.

Mother Superior *noun, pl* ~ **-ors** [*count*] : a woman who is the head of a convent • the watchful eye of the *Mother Superior* — often used as a form of address • Good morning, *Mother Superior*. — called also *Reverend Mother*

mother tongue *noun, pl* ~ **tongues** [*count*] : the language that a person learns to speak first • He speaks English fluently but his *mother tongue* [=*native language, first language*] is Chinese.

mo•tif /moʊˈtiːf/ *noun, pl* **-tifs** [*count*]
1 : something (such as an important idea or subject) that is repeated throughout a book, story, etc.
2 : a single or repeated design or pattern • The wallpaper has a flower *motif*.

[1]mo•tion /ˈmoʊʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 a : an act or process of moving : MOVEMENT [*noncount*] All *motion* stopped. • She has a simple golf swing with no/little wasted *motion*. [*count*] a rocking/smooth/steady *motion* • planetary *motions* • the rhythmic *motions* of the waves — see also SLOW MOTION **b** [*count*] : a movement of your body or of a part of your body • He caught the ball and flipped it back to me in one fluid *motion*. • She made a *motion* [=*gesture*] to her assistant. • The wax should be applied using a circular *motion*. • He made hand *motions* to get our attention.
2 [*count*] **a** : a formal suggestion or proposal that is made at a meeting for something to be done • She made a *motion* calling for the repeal of the law. • Her *motion* was voted on. • She made a *motion* that the meeting (should) be adjourned. = She made a *motion* to adjourn (the meeting). **b** *law* : a formal request made to a court of law or judge for something to be done or happen • His lawyer filed a *motion* for a mistrial. • Her lawyer has filed a *motion* that the case (should) be dismissed. • The judge denied a *motion* to delay the hearing.
3 [*count*] *Brit, medical* **a** : an act of passing solid waste from the body : a bowel movement **b** : the solid waste that is passed from the body
go through the motions : to do something without making much effort to do it well • He claimed that he was looking for a job, but he was really just *going through the motions*.
in motion **1** : moving • She's a very busy person who's constantly *in motion*. • He likes taking photographs of people *in motion*. **2** ✧ When something, such as a plan or process, is ***in motion*** or has been ***set in motion*** or ***put in/into motion***, it has begun and is proceeding. • They will be taking steps to *set/put* the divorce proceedings *in motion*. [=to begin the divorce proceedings] • The plan has been *put into motion*.
poetry in motion see POETRY

[2]motion *verb* **-tions; -tioned; -tion•ing** : to make a movement of your hand, head, etc., that tells someone to move or act in a certain way [+ *obj*] They *motioned* me to come forward. = They *motioned* me forward. • The guard *motioned* us through the gate. [*no obj*] She *motioned* to her assistant. • He *motioned* (to me) with one hand while opening the door with the other. • She *motioned* at the empty chair beside her and told me to sit down.

mo•tion•less /ˈmoʊʃənləs/ *adj* : not moving • He stood there absolutely *motionless*, waiting for her to speak.

motion picture *noun, pl* ~ **-tures** [*count*] *US* : MOVIE, FILM • He was given a starring role in a major *motion picture*. • the *motion-picture* industry

motion sickness *noun* [*noncount*] : a feeling of sickness caused by the motion of a car, airplane, boat, etc. — called also (*Brit*) *travel sickness*

mo•ti•vate /ˈmoʊtəˌveɪt/ *verb* **-vates; -vat•ed; -vat•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to give (someone) a reason for doing something • No one knows what *motivated* him to act in such a violent way. • The company has used a number of methods to *motivate* its employees (to work harder). — often used as *(be) motivated* • She said that she *was motivated* by a desire to help children.
2 : to be a reason for (something) • He denied that political pressures had *motivated* his decision. = He denied that his decision was politically *motivated*. [=done for political reasons] • a racially *motivated* crime
– **motivated** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • a highly *motivated* employee [=an employee who is eager to do work and who wants to be successful] – **mo•ti•va•tor** /ˈmoʊtəˌveɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] • The fear of failure can be a powerful *motivator*.

mo•ti•va•tion /ˌmoʊtəˈveɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*noncount*] **a** : the act or process of giving someone a reason for doing something : the act or process of motivating someone • Some students need *motivation* to help them through school. **b** : the condition of being eager to act or work : the condition of being motivated • employees who lack *motivation*
2 : a force or influence that causes someone to do something [*noncount*] His behavior seemed to be without *motivation*. = There seemed to be no *motivation* [=*reason, motive*] for his behavior. [*count*] Many people have questioned her *motivations* in choosing to run for office at this time.
– **mo•ti•va•tion•al** /ˌmoʊtəˈveɪʃənl/ *adj* • a *motivational* speech [=a speech that is intended to motivate people]

[1]mo•tive /ˈmoʊtɪv/ *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*] : a reason for doing something • Their *motive* in running away was to avoid being punished. • I think he's guilty of the crime. He had the *motive*, the means, and the opportunity. • She denied that her offer to help was based on selfish *motives*. • hidden/ulterior *motives* • making decisions based on the ***profit motive*** [=the desire to make a profit] — often + *for* • No one knows the main/real/underlying *motive for* his behavior.
– **mo•tive•less** /ˈmoʊtɪvləs/ *adj*

[2]motive *adj, always used before a noun, technical* : of, relating to, or causing motion • *motive* power

mot•ley /ˈmɑːtli/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *usually disapproving* : made up of many different people or things • a *motley* collection of junk • a *motley* crew/group of musicians

mo•to•cross /ˈmoʊtoʊˌkrɑːs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the sport of racing motorcycles over a rough course with many hills, sharp turns, etc.

[1]mo•tor /ˈmoʊtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]
1 : a machine that produces motion or power for doing work • a gasoline *motor* [=*engine*] • electric *motors* — see also OUTBOARD MOTOR
2 *chiefly Brit, informal + old-fashioned* : CAR
– **mo•tor•less** /ˈmoʊtɚləs/ *adj* • a *motorless* lawn mower • a *motorless* boat

[2]motor *adj, always used before a noun*
1 a : of, relating to, used in, or involving a vehicle that is powered by a motor (such as a car or motorcycle) • a *motor* mechanic/trip/accident • *motor* fuel/oil • *motor* racing/sports **b** : having a motor • a *motor* [=*motorized*] cart
2 *technical* : of or relating to the part of the nervous system that controls the movement of muscles • *motor* nerves/activities • *motor* areas of the brain • a *motor* reaction

[3]motor *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **-tors; -tored; -tor•ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to travel in a car : DRIVE • We spent the afternoon *motoring* through the countryside.
2 *of a car, truck, etc.* : to move in a specified manner or direction : DRIVE • The car *motored* slowly up the hill.

mo•tor•bike /ˈmoʊtɚˌbaɪk/ *noun, pl* **-bikes** [*count*]
1 *US* : a small motorcycle
2 *Brit* : [1]MOTORCYCLE

mo•tor•boat /ˈmoʊtɚˌboʊt/ *noun, pl* **-boats** [*count*] : a boat with a motor — see picture at BOAT

mo•tor•cade /ˈmoʊtɚˌkeɪd/ *noun, pl* **-cades** [*count*] : a group or line of cars or other vehicles that travel together • a presidential *motorcade* [=a line of vehicles that includes a car carrying the President]

mo•tor•car /ˈmoʊtɚˌkɑɚ/ *noun, pl* **-cars** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : CAR • driving an antique *motorcar*

motor court *noun, pl* ~ **courts** [*count*] *US* : MOTEL — used chiefly in the names of motels • We stayed overnight at the Pleasant Valley *Motor Court*.

[1]mo•tor•cy•cle /ˈmoʊtɚˌsaɪkəl/ *noun, pl* **-cy•cles** [*count*] : a vehicle with two wheels that is powered by a motor and that can carry one or two people • ride (on) a *motorcycle* • a *motorcycle* race/accident — see picture on the next page

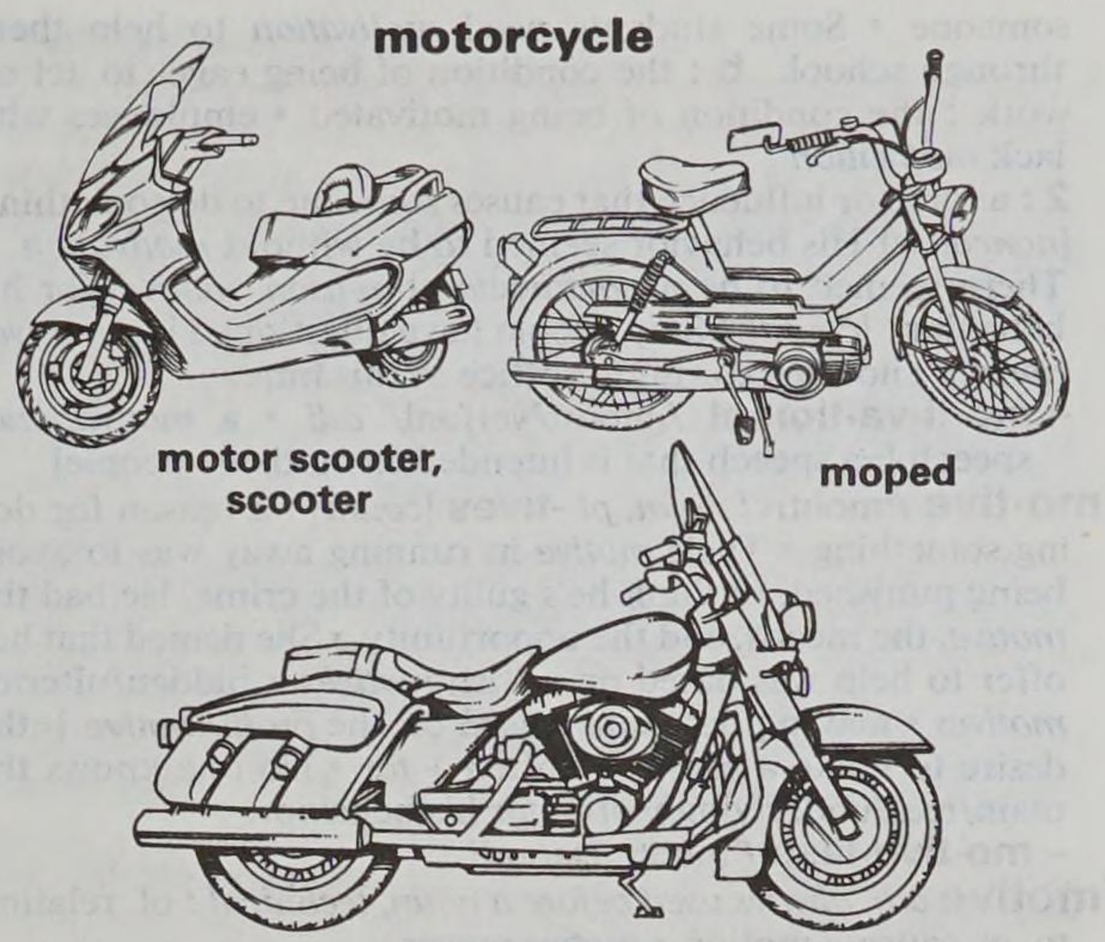
[2]motorcycle *verb* **-cy•cles; -cy•cled; -cy•cling** [*no obj*] : to ride on a motorcycle • He spent his vacation *motorcycling* across the country.
– **mo•tor•cy•clist** /ˈmoʊtɚˌsaɪkəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-clists** [*count*] • a law requiring *motorcyclists* to wear helmets

motor home *noun, pl* ~ **homes** [*count*] : a type of vehicle that people can live and sleep in when they are traveling — compare MOBILE HOME

motoring *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly Brit* : involving or relating to cars or driving • a *motoring* accident/offense

motor inn *noun, pl* ~ **inns** [*count*] *US* : MOTEL; *especially* : a large motel — used chiefly in the names of motels • We stayed at the South Bridge *Motor Inn*.

M



motorcycle

mo·tor·ist /ˈmoʊtərɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who drives a car ▪ When our car broke down, we were helped by a passing *motorist*. ▪ an uninsured *motorist*

mo·tor·ized *also Brit* **mo·tor·ised** /ˈmoʊtəˌraɪzd/ *adj*
1 : having a motor ▪ *motorized* vehicles ▪ a *motorized* bicycle/wheelchair
2 : using motorized vehicles ▪ *motorized* troops

mo·tor·man /ˈmoʊtɚmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a man whose job is to drive a subway train or a streetcar

mo·tor·mouth /ˈmoʊtɚˌmaʊθ/ *noun, pl* **-mouths** [*count*] *informal* : a person who talks too much

motor pool *noun, pl* ~ **pools** [*count*] : a group of vehicles that are available for use

motor scooter *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a small vehicle with two wheels that is powered by a motor and that has a low seat and a flat area for resting your feet — called also *scooter*; see picture at MOTORCYCLE

motor vehicle *noun, pl* ~ **-hi·cles** [*count*] : a vehicle (such as a car, truck, or motorcycle) that is powered by a motor ▪ You can register your car at the Registry of *Motor Vehicles*.

mo·tor·way /ˈmoʊtɚˌweɪ/ *noun, pl* **-ways** [*count*] *Brit* : a large highway : EXPRESSWAY

mot·tled /ˈmɑːtld/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : marked with colored spots or areas ▪ a tree with *mottled* leaves ▪ *mottled* skin ▪ a fabric *mottled* with green and yellow

mot·to /ˈmɑːtoʊ/ *noun, pl* **mot·toes** *also* **mot·tos** [*count*] : a short sentence or phrase that expresses a rule guiding the behavior of a particular person or group ▪ "Hope for the best and prepare for the worst" is my *motto*. ▪ The Boy Scout *motto* is "Be prepared."

mould *Brit spelling of* MOLD

moulder *Brit spelling of* MOLDER

moulding *Brit spelling of* MOLDING

mouldy *Brit spelling of* MOLDY

moult *Brit spelling of* MOLT

[1]mound /ˈmaʊnd/ *noun, pl* **mounds** [*count*]
1 : a small hill or pile of dirt or stones ▪ the burial *mounds* of an ancient people
2 : the slightly raised area of ground on which a baseball pitcher stands ▪ the pitcher's/pitching *mound*
3 : a heap or pile *of* something ▪ a *mound of* dirty laundry ▪ a *mound of* snow ▪ a *mound of* mashed potatoes — sometimes used figuratively ▪ We have a *mound of* work to do. [=we have a lot of work to do] ▪ an athlete who has earned *mounds of* money [=a large amount of money]

[2]mound *verb* **mounds; mound·ed; mound·ing** [+ *obj*] *chiefly US*
1 : to make a pile with or of (something) ▪ He *mounded* the food onto his plate. ▪ The snow was *mounded* (up) on both sides of the road. [=there was a pile of snow on both sides of the road]
2 : to cover (something) *with* a pile of something ▪ His plate was *mounded with* food. [=there was a pile of food on his plate] ▪ a desk *mounded with* books and papers

[1]mount /ˈmaʊnt/ *verb* **mounts; mount·ed; mount·ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to go or climb up (something) ▪ *mount* a ladder ▪ *mount* the stairs : to climb up onto (something) ▪ *mount* a platform
2 [*no obj*] : to increase in amount ▪ Their troubles have continued to *mount*. ▪ The pressure *mounted* as the crisis continued. ▪ Costs can *mount* (up) very quickly.
3 : to seat yourself on a horse, bicycle, etc. [+ *obj*] The cowboy *mounted* his horse and then quickly dismounted. ▪ She *mounted* her bicycle and rode away. [*no obj*] The cowboy *mounted* (up) and rode off.
4 [+ *obj*] : to attach (something) to something for support or use ▪ The jeweler *mounted* the pearl in a ring. ▪ She *mounted* the photograph to a piece of cardboard. — often + *on* ▪ The airplane's engines are *mounted on* the wings. [=are attached to the wings] ▪ He *mounted* a rack *on* the roof of his car. ▪ The speakers were *mounted on* the walls. ▪ He *mounted* a specimen *on* a slide for examination with a microscope.
5 [+ *obj*] : to organize and do (something that usually requires the effort of many people) ▪ *mount* an assault/attack ▪ The police have *mounted* a nationwide search for the killer. ▪ She is expected to *mount* a serious challenge in the coming election. ▪ The museum is *mounting* an exhibition of his paintings.
6 [+ *obj*] *of a male animal* : to climb onto (a female animal) in order to have sex
– **mounting** *adj* ▪ The company is faced with *mounting* [=*increasing*] costs. ▪ *mounting* debts/tension/frustration

[2]mount *noun, pl* **mounts** [*count*]
1 : something onto which something else is or can be attached ▪ a lens *mount* [=the part of a camera where a lens is attached]
2 *old-fashioned + literary* : a horse that is being ridden by a person ▪ The cowboy got down slowly from his *mount*.
– compare [3]MOUNT

[3]mount *noun, pl* **mounts** [*count*] : MOUNTAIN — used chiefly in names ▪ *Mount* Everest — compare [2]MOUNT

moun·tain /ˈmaʊntn̩/ *noun, pl* **-tains** [*count*]
1 : an area of land that rises very high above the land around it and that is higher than a hill ▪ She watched the sun set behind the *mountains*. ▪ the Rocky *Mountains* ▪ He climbed the *mountain*. ▪ a cabin in the *mountains* ▪ They both like *mountain* climbing. ▪ *mountain* scenery ▪ a *mountain* range/lake ▪ a *mountain* man [=a man who lives in the mountains] — see color picture on page C7
2 : a very large amount *of* something ▪ We've received a *mountain of* mail. ▪ *mountains of* data
make a mountain out of a molehill see MOLEHILL

mountain ash *noun, pl* ~ **ashes** [*count*] : a small tree that produces red berries — called also (*Brit*) *rowan*

mountain bike *noun, pl* ~ **bikes** [*count*] : a type of bicycle that has a strong frame, thick tires, and straight handlebars and that is used for riding over rough ground
– **mountain biker** *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] – **mountain biking** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He enjoys *mountain biking*.

moun·tain·eer /ˌmaʊntəˈnɪɚ/ *noun, pl* **-eers** [*count*] : a person who climbs mountains : a mountain climber
– **moun·tain·eer·ing** /ˌmaʊntəˈnɪrɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the sport of *mountaineering*

mountain goat *noun, pl* ~ **goats** [*count*] : an animal that has horns and a thick white coat and that lives in the mountains of western North America

mountain laurel *noun, pl* ~ **-rels** [*count*] : a North American evergreen tree or bush that has shiny leaves and pink or white flowers

mountain lion *noun, pl* ~ **-ons** [*count*] : COUGAR

moun·tain·ous /ˈmaʊntənəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having many mountains ▪ *mountainous* terrain/country/land ▪ a *mountainous* area/region
2 : extremely large : HUGE ▪ *mountainous* costs ▪ *mountainous* waves

moun·tain·side /ˈmaʊntn̩ˌsaɪd/ *noun, pl* **-sides** [*count*] : the side of a mountain ▪ a steep *mountainside*

moun·tain·top /ˈmaʊntn̩ˌtɑːp/ *noun, pl* **-tops** [*count*] : the top of a mountain ▪ a snowy *mountaintop*

moun·te·bank /ˈmaʊntɪˌbæŋk/ *noun, pl* **-banks** [*count*] *old-fashioned + literary* : a dishonest person : a person who tricks and cheats other people ▪ a gang of swindlers and *mountebanks*

mounted *adj, usually used before a noun* : having a horse or horses for riding ▪ *mounted* infantry/troops ▪ a *mounted* policeman

Mount·ie /ˈmaʊnti/ *noun, pl* **-ies** [*count*] : a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

mount·ing /ˈmaʊntɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] : something on which something else is or can be attached ▪ a *mounting*

for an engine ▪ a *mounting* for a diamond

mourn /ˈmoɚn/ *verb* **mourns; mourned; mourn•ing**

1 : to feel or show great sadness because someone has died [*no obj*] When he dies, people throughout the world will *mourn*. [=*grieve*] — often + *for* ▪ Thousands *mourned for* him. [+ *obj*] She is still *mourning* her husband, who died last year. ▪ Thousands of people *mourned* his death/passing. ▪ She was *mourned* by everyone who knew her.

2 : to feel or show great sadness or unhappiness about (something) [+ *obj*] She *mourned* the loss of her youth. ▪ He still *mourns* the fact that he never went to college. [*no obj*] — usually + *for* ▪ She *mourned for* her lost youth.

mourn•er /ˈmoɚnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] **:** a person who mourns for someone who has died; *especially* **:** a person who goes to someone's funeral ▪ His funeral services attracted hundreds of *mourners*.

mourn•ful /ˈmoɚnfəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] **:** full of sorrow **:** very sad ▪ a *mournful* face ▪ *mournful* eyes ▪ a *mournful* song/occasion

– mourn•ful•ly /ˈmoɚnfəli/ *adv* ▪ He spoke *mournfully*.

– mourn•ful•ness *noun* [*noncount*]

mourn•ing /ˈmoɚnɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the act of mourning for someone who has died ▪ a day of national *mourning* ▪ She is still ***in mourning*** for her dead husband. ▪ The whole town was *in mourning*. ▪ She ***went into mourning*** for her dead husband. [=she began to mourn for her dead husband]

2 : great sadness felt because someone has died ▪ a period of deep *mourning*

3 : black clothing that is worn to show that you are mourning for someone who has died ▪ His widow was dressed in *mourning*.

mouse /ˈmaʊs/ *noun, pl* **mice** /ˈmaɪs/ [*count*]

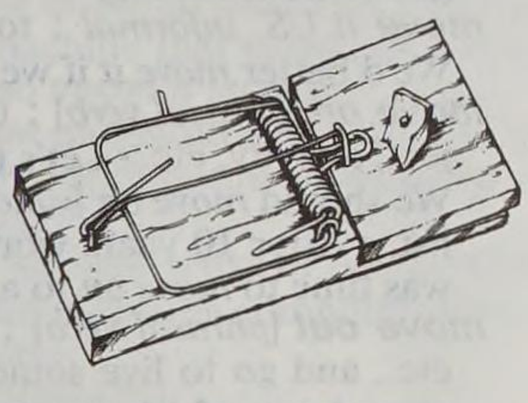
1 : a very small animal that has a pointed nose and a long, thin tail ▪ The house was infested with *mice* and rats. ▪ a ***field mouse*** [=a type of mouse that lives in fields] ▪ a ***house mouse*** [=a type of mouse that lives in people's houses] — sometimes used figuratively to refer to a weak, frightened, or quiet person ▪ Stand up for your rights! What are you—a man or a *mouse*?! — see picture at RODENT

2 *pl also* **mous•es :** a small device that is connected to a computer and that you move with your hand to control the movement of a pointer on the computer screen ▪ He moved the *mouse* to click on the icon. ▪ (*US*) a ***mouse pad*** = (*Brit*) a ***mouse mat*** [=a small pad that a computer's mouse rests on] — see picture at COMPUTER

– see also CAT AND MOUSE

mous•er /ˈmaʊsɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] **:** a cat that is good at catching mice

mouse•trap /ˈmaʊsˌtræp/ *noun, pl* **-traps** [*count*] **:** a small trap for catching mice



mousetrap

mous•sa•ka /muˈsɑːkə/ *noun, pl* **-kas** [*count, noncount*] **:** a Greek dish of ground meat (such as lamb or beef) and sliced eggplant

mousse /ˈmuːs/ *noun, pl* **mouss•es** [*count, noncount*]

1 : a cold and sweet food made with whipped cream or egg whites and usually fruit or chocolate ▪ chocolate *mousse* ▪ a lemon *mousse*

2 : a foamy substance that is used in styling a person's hair ▪ a jar of styling/hair *mousse*

moustache *chiefly Brit spelling of* MUSTACHE

moustachio *chiefly Brit spelling of* MUSTACHIO

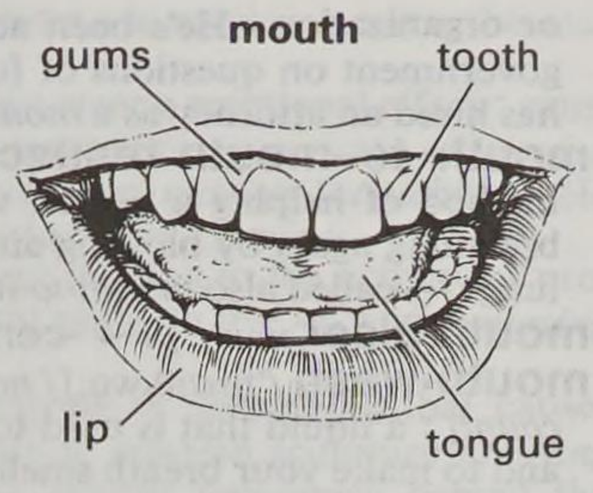
mousy *also* **mous•ey** /ˈmaʊsi/ *adj* **mous•i•er; -est**

1 : shy and quiet ▪ The movie is a fantasy about a *mousy* housewife who is transformed into a glamorous star.

2 *of hair* **:** dull brown in color ▪ *mousy* [=*drab*] brown hair

[1]mouth /ˈmaʊθ/ *noun, pl* **mouths** /ˈmaʊðz/

1 : the opening through which food passes into the body **:** the part of the face that includes the lips and the opening behind them [*count*] He kissed her on the *mouth*. ▪ He threatened to punch me in the *mouth*. ▪ She stood there with her *mouth* agape/open. ▪ I burned the roof of my *mouth*. ▪ They told him to keep his *mouth* closed when chewing and not to talk with his *mouth* full. ▪ He wiped his *mouth* with a napkin after eating. ▪ She regretted saying it as soon as the words were out of her *mouth*. ▪ The smell of the food made my *mouth* water. ▪ The candy melts in your *mouth*. ▪ He says something stupid ***every time he opens his mouth***. [=every time he speaks] ▪ The experience ***left a bad taste in my mouth***. [=the experience left me feeling bad or disgusted] [*noncount*] The medication is taken ***by mouth***.



2 [*count*] **:** an opening in something — usually + *of* ▪ the *mouth of* a cave/bottle — see also GOAL MOUTH

3 [*count*] **:** the place where a river enters the ocean ▪ the *mouth* of the river = the river's *mouth*

4 [*singular*] *informal* **:** an unpleasant or offensive way of talking ▪ That guy has quite a *mouth* on him. ▪ He has a loud *mouth*. ▪ He cursed and his mother angrily told him to ***watch his mouth***. [=to not use offensive language] — see also BIG MOUTH, LOUDMOUTH, SMART-MOUTH

all mouth (and no trousers/action) *Brit, informal* — used to describe someone who talks a lot about doing something but never actually does it

born with a silver spoon in your mouth see BORN

butter wouldn't melt in someone's mouth see [1]BUTTER

by word of mouth see [1]WORD

down in the mouth **:** unhappy or depressed ▪ I was surprised to see her looking so *down in the mouth*.

foam at the mouth see [2]FOAM

from the horse's mouth see [1]HORSE

froth at the mouth see [2]FROTH

hand to mouth see [1]HAND

heart in your mouth see HEART

keep your mouth shut **1 :** to not say anything ▪ When he starts talking about politics, I just *keep my mouth shut*. **2 :** to not talk about something (such as a secret) ▪ She told me to *keep my mouth shut* about the news. [=she told me not to tell anyone about the news] ▪ I never tell him anything important because he doesn't know how to *keep his mouth shut*. [=he tells other people what he has been told]

look a gift horse in the mouth see [1]HORSE

melt in your mouth see [1]MELT

mouth to feed **:** a person (such as a child) who needs to be fed ▪ They can't afford another child. They already have too many (hungry) *mouths to feed*.

put words in/into someone's mouth see [1]WORD

put your foot in your mouth see [1]FOOT

put your money where your mouth is see MONEY

run your mouth see [1]RUN

shoot your mouth off see [1]SHOOT

shut your mouth see [1]SHUT

take the words right out of someone's mouth see [1]WORD

[2]mouth /ˈmaʊð/ *verb* **mouths; mouthed; mouth•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to say or repeat (something) without really meaning it or understanding it ▪ She was just *mouthing* the usual meaningless platitudes about the need for reform.

2 : to form (words) with your lips without speaking ▪ The librarian *mouthed* "quiet." ▪ silently *mouthing* the words to a song

mouth off [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **:** to talk in a loud, unpleasant, or rude way ▪ He got in trouble again for *mouthing off* to his teacher. ▪ She's always *mouthing off* about how much better she could run the company herself.

-mouthed /ˌmaʊðd/ *adj* **:** having a mouth of a specified type — usually used in combination with another adjective ▪ a large-*mouthed* jar ▪ big-*mouthed* ▪ loud*mouthed*

mouth•ful /ˈmaʊθˌfʊl/ *noun, pl* **-fuls**

1 [*count*] **:** as much as a mouth will hold ▪ a *mouthful* of food/water ▪ It was a delicious meal. We enjoyed every *mouthful*.

2 [*singular*] *informal* **a :** a word, name, or phrase that is very long or difficult to say ▪ His last name is a real *mouthful*. **b** *US* **:** something said that has a lot of meaning or importance ▪ You ***said a mouthful***! [=I agree with what you said; you said something that was entirely correct and that was worth saying]

mouth organ *noun, pl* **~ -gans** [*count*] **:** HARMONICA

mouth•piece /ˈmaʊθˌpiːs/ *noun, pl* **-piec•es** [*count*]

1 : a part of something that is placed between or near your lips ▪ the *mouthpiece* of a trumpet/telephone

2 : someone who speaks for another person or for a group

M

or organization ▪ He's been acting as a *mouthpiece* for the government on questions of foreign policy. ▪ The company has hired an attorney as a *mouthpiece* to answer its critics.

mouth–to–mouth resuscitation *noun* [*noncount*] : a method of helping a person who is not breathing to start breathing again by blowing air into the person's mouth and lungs — called also *mouth-to-mouth*

mouth ulcer *noun, pl* ~ **-cers** [*count*] : CANKER SORE

mouth•wash /ˈmaʊθˌwɑːʃ/ *noun, pl* **-wash•es** [*count, noncount*] : a liquid that is used to clean your mouth and teeth and to make your breath smell better

mouth–wa•ter•ing /ˈmaʊθˌwɑːtərɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a very delicious taste or appealing smell ▪ a *mouth-watering* aroma ▪ *mouth-watering* food
– **mouth–wa•ter•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ food that smells *mouth-wateringly* good

mouthy /ˈmaʊθi/ *adj* **mouth•i•er**; **-est** *informal* : talking too much and often in an unpleasant or rude way ▪ a *mouthy* show-off

mov•able *also* **move•able** /ˈmuːvəbəl/ *adj*
1 : able to be moved ▪ a *movable* antenna/partition ▪ *movable* property — opposite IMMOVABLE
2 : happening on a different date each year ▪ Thanksgiving is a *movable* holiday. ▪ Easter is a ***movable feast***. [=a religious festival that occurs on a different date each year]

[1]move /ˈmuːv/ *verb* **moves**; **moved**; **mov•ing**
1 a [+ *obj*] : to cause (something or someone) to go from one place or position to another ▪ He *moved* the chair closer to the table. ▪ It may be necessary to *move* the patient to intensive care. ▪ The breeze *moved* the branches of the trees. ▪ The knife had sunk deeply into the wood and couldn't be *moved*. [=*budged*] **b** [*no obj*] : to go from one place or position to another ▪ The boat *moved* [=*rocked*] slowly from side to side as the wind rose. ▪ The branches *moved* gently in the breeze.
2 a : to cause (your body or a part of your body) to go from one position to another [+ *obj*] She was unable to *move* her legs. ▪ Nobody ***moved a muscle***. [=nobody moved at all; everyone was very still] [*no obj*] The dancers *moved* gracefully. ▪ Nobody *moved*. ▪ She was so frightened that she could hardly *move*. ▪ I *moved* over so that she could sit next to me. **b** [*no obj*] : to go or walk from one place to another ▪ We *moved* into the shade. ▪ The police were *moving* through the crowd telling people to *move* toward the exit. ▪ People were *moving* (about/around) freely. ▪ We could hear someone *moving* around upstairs. ▪ *move* along ▪ They *moved* closer to each other and spoke in whispers.
3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to cause (something) to go to a specified place or to proceed in a specified way ▪ The records show that she *moved* large amounts of money to a foreign bank account. ▪ He lacks enough support to *move* his proposals through the legislature. **b** : to cause (something) to happen at a different time ▪ The meeting has been *moved* [=*changed*] to this afternoon.
4 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to go to a different and usually higher position [*no obj*] The team has *moved* into second place. ▪ She has been steadily *moving* up the corporate ladder. ▪ Congratulations on your promotion. It's nice to see how you're ***moving up in the world***. [+ *obj*] A win will *move* the team into second place.
5 a : to go to a different place to live [*no obj*] We've had to *move* twice in the past year. ▪ He didn't like small towns and decided to *move* to the city. ▪ We're planning to *move* into a new apartment. ▪ He *moved* (away) with his family to California. [+ *obj*] He *moved* his family to California. ▪ (*Brit*) We've had to ***move house*** twice in the past year. **b** : to go to a different place to work or do business [*no obj*] The company is *moving* from New York to Chicago. [+ *obj*] The company is *moving* its offices from New York to Chicago. — see also MOVING 3
6 [+ *obj*] **a** : to affect the feelings of (someone) : to cause (someone) to feel an emotion and especially sadness or sympathy ▪ The sad story of his childhood *moved* us deeply. ▪ I was greatly *moved* by his story/kindness. ▪ He's not easily ***moved to*** anger. [=he does not become angry easily] ▪ His story ***moved us to tears***. [=it affected us so strongly that we cried] — see also MOVING 2 **b** : to cause (someone) to act or think in a specified way — followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ The report *moved* [=*persuaded*] me *to change* my mind. ▪ His arguments *moved* them *to reconsider* the plan. ▪ I felt *moved* [=*compelled*] *to speak*. **c** : to cause (someone) to feel or think in a different way ▪ We were unable to *move* him from his convictions. ▪ He would not be *moved*.
7 [*no obj*] : to take action : ACT ▪ We need to *move* quickly to close this deal. ▪ He was waiting for the right time to *move* against his enemies. ▪ She hasn't yet *moved* on their recommendations. ▪ We must *move* [=*proceed*] very carefully to avoid offending them.
8 a : to formally make a suggestion or proposal at a meeting [*no obj*] — + *for* ▪ She *moved for* an adjournment. [+ *obj*] She *moved* to adjourn the meeting. = She *moved* that the meeting be adjourned. **b** [*no obj*] *law* : to make a formal request to a court of law or judge for something to be done or happen — + *for* ▪ His lawyer *moved for* a mistrial. ▪ The plaintiff *moved for* a retrial.
9 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to make progress ▪ The plot of the novel *moves* [=*develops*] slowly. ▪ They're *moving* closer to making a decision.
10 *informal* : SELL [+ *obj*] a store that *moves* a lot of merchandise [*no obj*] The products have been *moving* slowly.
11 [*no obj*] *informal* : to go fast ▪ When the police car passed us it was really *moving*.
12 [*no obj*] : to spend time with a particular group of people or at a particular level of society ▪ She *moves* in high circles. [=she is friendly with wealthy and powerful people] ▪ She and her sister *move* in very different circles. [=they are friendly with very different groups of people]
13 [*no obj*] *informal* : to leave a place ▪ It was getting late and I thought it was time to be *moving*. [=*going*]
14 : to cause a piece in a game (such as chess or checkers) to go from one place to another [+ *obj*] He *moved* a pawn. [*no obj*] It's your turn to *move*.

as/when the spirit moves you see [1]SPIRIT

get moving *informal* : to start moving or going quickly ▪ We need to *get moving* [=*hurry*] or we'll miss the show.

move ahead/along **1** : to make progress ▪ The project is finally starting to *move ahead*. **2** : to go on to something else ▪ Let's *move along* [=*move on*] to the next item.

move heaven and earth : to work very hard to do something ▪ He vowed that he would *move heaven and earth* to finish the project on schedule.

move in [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to start living in a house, apartment, etc. ▪ I remember when our neighbors first *moved in*. ▪ He's planning to *move in* with his girlfriend. **2** ***move in on (someone or something)*** : to move closer or nearer to (someone or something that you are trying to reach, get, etc.) ▪ The police *moved in on* [=*closed in on*] the wanted criminal. ▪ The police *moved in on* the criminal's hideout. ▪ The lion was *moving in on* its prey. — often used figuratively ▪ Our competitors are trying to *move in on* our territory. [=trying to get control of our territory] ▪ He was trying to *move in on* my girlfriend. [=trying to take my girlfriend from me]

move it *US, informal* : to start moving or going quickly ▪ We'd better *move it* if we don't want to be late.

move on [*phrasal verb*] : to go on to a different place, subject, activity, etc. ▪ Let's put that issue aside and *move on*. ▪ We should *move on* [=*move ahead*] to the next item on the list. ▪ After 10 years working for one company, she felt it was time to *move on* to a new job.

move out [*phrasal verb*] : to leave your house, apartment, etc., and go to live somewhere else ▪ He was 20 when he *moved out* of his parents' house. ▪ Her lease ends next month, so she'll have to *move out* (of her apartment) soon.

[2]move *noun, pl* **moves** [*count*]
1 : an act of moving your body or a part of your body : MOVEMENT ▪ fancy dance *moves* ▪ He made a sudden *move* that scared away the squirrel. ▪ an athlete who has some good *moves* ▪ No one made a *move* toward the exits. [=no one moved toward the exits] ▪ The policeman warned him not to make any false *moves*. ▪ He was afraid to make a *move*.
2 : an action ▪ The police are watching his every *move*. = The police are watching every *move* he makes. [=the police are watching everything he does] ▪ No one is sure what his next *move* will be. ▪ He was waiting for her to ***make the first move***. [=to act first]
3 : the act of moving to a different place ▪ He's preparing for his *move* to California.
4 : something done to achieve a desired result or goal ▪ Starting her own business was a risky/bold *move*. ▪ In a *move* to attract new customers, the company has decided to devote more money to advertising. ▪ a smart/wise *move* ▪ a good ***career move*** [=something done to help a person's career]
5 : an act of moving a piece in a game (such as chess or checkers) ▪ the opening *moves* in a game of chess ▪ It's your *move*. [=*turn*]

get a move on *informal* : to start moving or going quickly ▪ We'd better *get a move on* if we don't want to be late.
make a move *Brit, informal* : to leave a place ▪ It's been a lovely evening, but it's time we were *making a move*.
on the move **1** : moving or going from place to place ▪ As a young man, he was always *on the move*. **2** : making progress ▪ After a slow start, the project is finally *on the move*. ▪ a civilization *on the move*
put the moves on *US, informal* : to do or say things in an effort to start a sexual relationship with someone ▪ He accused me of trying to *put the moves on* his girlfriend.

move•ment /'mu:vmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**
1 a : the act or process of moving people or things from one place or position to another [*noncount*] He developed an efficient system for *movement* of raw materials to the factory. [*count*] troop *movements* **b** : the act of moving from one place or position to another [*noncount*] increased cell *movement* [*count*] studying the *movements* of the planets **c** : the act of moving your body or a part of your body [*noncount*] We wore loose clothes to allow for easier *movement*. ▪ freedom of *movement* [*count*] the graceful *movements* of a dancer ▪ careful and precise *movements* ▪ muscle/hand/eye *movements*
2 *movements* [*plural*] : a person's actions or activities ▪ The police have been keeping a careful record of his *movements*.
3 [*count*] **a** : a series of organized activities in which many people work together to do or achieve something ▪ She started a *movement* [=*campaign*] for political reform. ▪ There's a *movement* afoot to rename the town. ▪ a book about the history of the civil rights *movement* **b** : the group of people who are involved in such a movement ▪ They joined the anti-war/peace/feminist *movement*.
4 a : a noticeable change in the way people behave or think [*noncount*] There has been a *movement* back to more therapeutic treatments of mental disorders in recent years. [*count*] There has been some *movement* to more therapeutic treatments. **b** : a noticeable change in a situation [*noncount*] There hasn't been any *movement* in the negotiations. [=the negotations have not progressed] [*count*] There has been a *movement* [=*tendency*] toward lower prices in the housing market recently. [=prices have been going lower in the housing market recently]
5 [*count*] *music* : a main section of a longer piece of music ▪ the first *movement* of the symphony
6 [*count*] *medical* : an act of passing solid waste from the body — called also *bowel movement*

mov•er /'mu:vɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : someone or something that moves in a certain way ▪ a slow/fast *mover*
2 : a machine that moves people or things from one place to another ▪ an ***earth mover*** [=a machine that is used to move large amounts of soil] — see also PEOPLE MOVER
3 *US* : a person or company that moves furniture and other possessions from one home or place of business to another ▪ a furniture *mover* [=(*Brit*) *remover*]
movers and shakers : people who are active or powerful in some field ▪ the *movers and shakers* of the computer industry ▪ political *movers and shakers*

mov•ie /'mu:vi/ *noun, pl* **-ies** *chiefly US*
1 [*count*] : a recording of moving images that tells a story and that people watch on a screen or television ▪ He's making a *movie* [=*film, motion picture*] about growing up in a small town. ▪ a Hollywood *movie* ▪ We went to (see) a *movie* after dinner. ▪ Do you want to rent a *movie* [=rent a video or DVD] tonight? ▪ an action *movie* ▪ a horror *movie* — often used before another noun ▪ a *movie* star/producer/director ▪ a *movie* camera/studio ▪ the *movie* business/industry ▪ a *movie* critic/review ▪ a *movie* house/theater — see also HOME MOVIE
2 *the movies* **a** : a showing of a movie in a theater ▪ We are ***going to the movies*** tonight. [=we are going to see a movie tonight]; *also* : a movie theater ▪ What's (playing/showing) ***at the movies***? **b** : the business of making movies : the film industry ▪ He wants to work in *the movies*. ▪ a career in *the movies*

mov•ie•go•er /'mu:vi,gowɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a person who goes to a theater to watch movies

mov•ie•mak•er /'mu:vi,meɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a person who makes movies : FILMMAKER
– **mov•ie•mak•ing** /'mu:vi,meɪkɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a talent for *moviemaking*

moving *adj*
1 : changing place or position ▪ a *moving* target ▪ the machine's *moving* parts
2 [*more ~; most ~*] : having a strong emotional effect : causing feelings of sadness or sympathy ▪ a *moving* story of a faithful dog ▪ The tribute was very *moving*. [=*touching*] ▪ He gave a *moving* speech at the memorial service.
3 *always used before a noun* : relating to the activity or process of moving to a different place to live or work ▪ *moving* expenses
moving force/spirit : someone or something that causes something to happen ▪ one of modern sculpture's *moving spirits* ▪ He has been the *moving force/spirit* behind the project from the beginning.
– **mov•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ He spoke *movingly* at the memorial service.

moving picture *noun, pl* ~ **-tures** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : MOVIE

moving staircase *noun, pl* ~ **-cases** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : ESCALATOR

moving van *noun, pl* ~ **vans** [*count*] *US* : a large vehicle in which furniture and other things are moved from one home or building to another — called also (*Brit*) *removal van*

[1]mow /'moʊ/ *verb* **mows**; **mowed**; **mowed** *or* **mown** /'moʊn/; **mow•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cut (something, such as grass) with a machine or a blade ▪ *mow* the grass ▪ *mow* hay ▪ ***mow the lawn*** [=cut the grass that grows on the lawn]
mow down [*phrasal verb*] ***mow (someone) down*** *or* ***mow down (someone)*** *informal* : to kill or knock down (a person or many people) in a sudden and violent way ▪ The soldiers were *mowed down* by machine guns. ▪ The car *mowed down* four pedestrians.
– **mow•er** /'moʊɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

[2]mow *noun, pl* **mows** [*count*] *informal* : an act of mowing something (such as a lawn) ▪ The lawn needs a *mow*. [=needs to be mowed]

mox•ie /'mɑ:ksi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US, informal* + *old-fashioned*
1 : the ability to be active : ENERGY ▪ full of *moxie* [=*pep*]
2 : courage or determination ▪ He showed a lot of *moxie* in questioning the policy.

moz•za•rel•la /ˌmɑ:tsə'rɛlə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a soft Italian cheese that has a mild flavor

MP /'ɛm'pi:/ *noun, pl* **MPs** [*count*]
1 : a member of the military police
2 *Brit* : an elected member of Parliament

mpg *abbr* miles per gallon ▪ a car that gets 30 *mpg*

mph *abbr* miles per hour ▪ a car traveling 60 *mph*

MP3 /ˌɛmˌpi:'θri:/ *noun, pl* **MP3s**
1 [*noncount*] : a computer format for creating sound files (such as songs) that are much smaller than standard sound files — often used before another noun ▪ *MP3* files ▪ an ***MP3 player*** [=a device that stores and plays songs in the MP3 format]
2 [*count*] : a computer file (such as a song) in the MP3 format ▪ downloading *MP3s* off the Internet

Mr. (*US*) *or Brit* **Mr** /'mɪstɚ/ *noun*
1 a — used as a title before the name of a man ▪ *Mr.* Doe ▪ How are you, *Mr.* Jones? ▪ *Mr.* John Doe — compare MISTER; see also MESSRS. **b** — used as a title when speaking to a man who has an honored position or office ▪ "It's an honor to meet you, *Mr.* President/Chairman."
2 a — used as part of a title for a man who has won a contest ▪ *Mr.* Universe **b** — used to refer to a man who is very successful and famous for a particular activity (such as a sport) or who has a particular quality ▪ He came to be known as *Mr.* Baseball. ▪ She thinks her boyfriend is *Mr.* Wonderful. [=she thinks her boyfriend is wonderful]

Mr. Big (*US*) *or Brit* **Mr Big** *noun* [*singular*] *informal* : a very powerful or important man; *especially* : the leader of a group of criminals

MRI /ˌɛmˌɑɚ'aɪ/ *noun, pl* **MRIs** *medical*
1 [*noncount*] : MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING ▪ an *MRI* machine/scanner
2 [*count*] : a procedure in which magnetic resonance imaging is used ▪ He had an *MRI* (done) on his knee.

Mr. Nice Guy (*US*) *or Brit* **Mr Nice Guy** *noun* [*singular*] *informal* : a man who treats people kindly : a nice man — used chiefly in the phrase ***no more Mr. Nice Guy*** ▪ I'm tired of the way they treat me. From now on, *no more Mr. Nice Guy*! [=I'm not going to be nice to them from now on]

Mr. Right (*US*) *or Brit* **Mr Right** *noun* [*singular*] *informal* : a man who would be the best husband for a particular woman

▪ She's still looking for *Mr. Right*. [=the perfect man for her to marry]

Mrs. (*US*) *or Brit* **Mrs** /'mɪsəz/ *noun*
1 a — used as a title for a married woman ▪ *Mrs.* Smith ▪ *Mrs.* Jane Smith ▪ *Mrs.* Robert Smith [=the wife of Robert Smith] — compare MISS, MS. **b** — used as a title when speaking to a married woman who holds an honored position or office ▪ "It's an honor to meet you, *Mrs.* [=(more commonly) *Madam*] President/Chairman."
2 a — used as part of a title for a married woman who has won a contest ▪ *Mrs.* America **b** — used to refer to a married woman who is very successful and famous for a particular activity (such as a sport) or who has a particular quality ▪ She has come to be known as *Mrs.* Golf. ▪ He thinks his wife is *Mrs.* Wonderful. [=he thinks his wife is wonderful]

Ms. (*US*) *or Brit* **Ms** /'mɪz/ *noun* — used as a title before a woman's name instead of *Miss* or *Mrs.* ▪ *Ms.* Smith ▪ *Ms.* Jane Smith ✧ *Ms.* can be used whether or not a woman is married. — compare MISS, MRS.

MS *abbr* **1** Mississippi **2** multiple sclerosis

MSG /ˌɛmˌɛsˈʤi:/ *noun* [*noncount*] : MONOSODIUM GLUTAMATE

MT *abbr* **1** Montana **2** mountain time

[1]much /'mʌʧ/ *adj* : large in amount or extent : not little ▪ *Much* research [=a lot of research] was carried out. ▪ Fixing the problem will require *much* effort. [=a lot of effort] ▪ The project is taking ***too much*** time. [=is taking more time than it should] ▪ I can't believe that we spent ***so much*** money. [=such a large amount of money] — often used in questions and in negative statements ▪ How *much* money do you have? ▪ Was there *much* food at the party? ▪ He doesn't know *much* French. ▪ There wasn't *much* more that we could do. ▪ It doesn't cost *much* money. ▪ There isn't *much* difference between them. ▪ The clerk wasn't *much* help. [=was not very helpful] ▪ There wasn't *much* doubt about who would win.
a bit much see [1]BIT
never so much as see NEVER
so much — used for emphasis ▪ The house burned like *so much* paper. [=it burned as if it were made of paper] ▪ The explanation sounded like *so much* nonsense. [=it sounded like a lot of nonsense]
too much **1** : too difficult to accept or deal with ▪ Working two jobs was *too much* (for him). **2** *informal* : very unusual in either an enjoyable or annoying way ▪ I can't believe the way he talks. That guy is *too much*. ▪ We laughed so hard. It was just *too much*.

[2]much *adv*
1 a : to a great degree or extent ▪ I'm feeling *much* better. ▪ *much* happier/prettier/wealthier ▪ The new car is *much* better on gas mileage. ▪ They both talk ***too much***. ▪ Thank you ***so/very much*** for your help. **b** : VERY, EXTREMELY ▪ He is *much* interested in the project. ▪ They were *much* pleased by the compliment. ▪ some *much*-needed repairs ▪ a *much*-deserved vacation ▪ He's ***not much good at*** golf. [=he plays golf badly; he is not a good golfer] **c** : FREQUENTLY, OFTEN ▪ She doesn't visit her family *much*. ▪ Do you travel *much*? **d** : by a long time ▪ He didn't arrive *much* before noon. [=he didn't arrive until almost noon]
2 : very nearly ▪ The town still looks *much* [=*essentially*] the way it did years ago. ▪ The town looks *much* the same. ▪ We came to *much* the same conclusion. ▪ We left the house *much* as we found it.
as much : the same ▪ I helped her through the divorce—I know she would do *as much* for me. [=I know that she would help me if I were going through a divorce] ▪ He likes baseball but he likes hockey just *as much*. ▪ "Where is he?" "He's still at home." "***I thought as much***." [=I thought so; that is what I thought]
as much as **1** — used to say that two things are equal in amount or degree ▪ He likes hockey *as much as* he likes basketball. [=he likes hockey and basketball equally] **2** : ALMOST — used to say that someone came very close to doing something ▪ He *as much as* admitted his guilt.
much as : ALTHOUGH ▪ She knew the truth, *much as* [=*even though*] she wanted to deny it.
much less see [2]LESS
pretty much see [2]PRETTY
so much as see [1]SO
so much the better see [3]BETTER
very much — used for emphasis ▪ She is *very much* [=*entirely, decidedly*] in control of the situation. ▪ The company is still *very much* an important part of the community.

[3]much *pronoun*
1 : a large amount ▪ *Much* that was said is false. ▪ We all learned *much* [=*a lot*] from this experience. ▪ He gave away *much* of what he owned. ▪ Not *much* is known about his childhood. ▪ She did *much* to improve the city. ▪ Do you see *much* of your family? [=do you see your family often?] ▪ She's trying to do ***too much***. [=trying to do more than she should]
2 : something that is important or impressive — used in negative statements ▪ There was some food there, but it ***wasn't much***. [=there was not much food] ▪ The evidence didn't ***amount to much***. [=there was not much evidence] ▪ Her contributions didn't ***add up to much***. [=her contributions were not important] ▪ Before the renovations, the house was ***not much to look at***. [=was not attractive]
as much as — used to say that an amount is as large as another amount ▪ She earns *as much as* he does.
make much of see [1]MAKE
not much of a — used to say that someone or something is not very good ▪ He's *not much of* a cook. [=he's not a very good cook] ▪ It *wasn't much of* a vacation.
not much on : not known for, good at, or interested in (something) ▪ He's *not much on* looks. [=he is not very attractive] ▪ She's *not much on* studying. [=she does not like to study]
not think much of see [1]THINK
so much see [1]SO

[1]muck /'mʌk/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal*
1 : wet dirt or mud ▪ Clean that *muck* off your shoes.
2 *chiefly Brit* : solid waste from farm animals : MANURE
3 *informal* : something that is disgusting ▪ How can they expect us to eat this *muck*? [=*garbage, junk*]
make a muck of something *Brit, informal* : to do something badly or with many mistakes ▪ He's *made a muck of* things.
– **mucky** /'mʌki/ *adj* **muck•i•er**; **-est** ▪ *mucky* shoes

[2]muck *verb* **mucks**; **mucked**; **muck•ing**
muck about/around [*phrasal verb*] *Brit, informal* **1** : to spend time doing things that are not useful or serious : to waste time ▪ We just *mucked about* [=*messed around*] all afternoon. **2** ***muck about/around with (something)*** : to use or do (something) in a way that is not very serious ▪ She spent the evening *mucking around with* [=*fooling around with*] the computer. **3** ***muck (someone) about/around*** : to be unfair or dishonest with (someone) : to lie to or cheat (someone) ▪ I want them to stop *mucking* me *around*. ▪ He's tired of being *mucked about*. [=(US) *jerked around*]
muck in [*phrasal verb*] *Brit, informal* : to help out especially by doing work ▪ *muck in* [=*pitch in*] with the hard work
muck out [*phrasal verb*] ***muck (something) out*** *or* ***muck out (something)*** *informal* : to clean (the place where a farm animal lives) : to remove animal waste and dirty hay, sawdust, etc., from (a place, such as a barn) ▪ We went to the barn to *muck out* [=*clean out*] the stalls.
muck up [*phrasal verb*] ***muck (something) up*** *or* ***muck up (something)*** *chiefly Brit, informal* **1** : to make (something) dirty ▪ Take those dirty shoes off before you *muck up* the floor. **2** : to spoil or ruin (something) : to make mistakes in doing or making (something) ▪ He *mucked up* [=*messed up*] the speech. = He *mucked* the speech *up*. ▪ I *mucked up* my first attempt and had to try again.

muck•rak•er /'mʌkˌreɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : someone (such as a reporter) who tries to find embarrassing or shocking information about famous people
– **muck•rak•ing** /'mʌkˌreɪkɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a journalist accused of *muckraking* – **muckraking** *adj* ▪ a *muckraking* journalist

mu•cous membrane /'mju:kəs-/ *noun, pl* ~ **-branes** [*count*] : a thin, wet layer of skin that is inside some parts of the body (such as the nose and throat) and that produces mucus

mu•cus /'mju:kəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a thick liquid that is produced in some parts of the body (such as the nose and throat)

mud /'mʌd/ *noun* [*noncount*] : soft, wet dirt ▪ He tracked *mud* into the house. ▪ His shoes were covered with *mud*. = His shoes were caked in/with *mud*. ▪ The car was stuck in the *mud*.
as clear as mud *informal* : very difficult to understand : not clear at all ▪ The explanation was *as clear as mud*.
drag someone's name through the mud see [1]DRAG
sling/throw mud *chiefly US* : to publicly say false or bad

things about someone (such as a political opponent) in order to harm that person's reputation ▪ The candidates started *slinging mud* (at each other) early in the campaign. — see also MUDSLINGING

your name is mud *informal* ✧ If *your name is mud* people do not like or trust you. ▪ The scandal ruined his reputation and now *his name is mud*.

[1]mud•dle /ˈmʌdl̩/ *verb* **mud•dles; mud•dled; mud•dling** [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause confusion in (someone or someone's mind) — often used as *(be) muddled* ▪ a mind *muddled* by too much advice

2 : to mix up (something) in a confused way ▪ *muddle* the household accounts ▪ I always get their names *muddled* (up) [=*mixed up*] in my mind.

muddle along [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to think, act, or proceed in a confused way or without a plan ▪ She *muddled along* for a few years before going to college.

muddle through [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to do something without doing it very well or easily ▪ I had a hard time with the class, but somehow I *muddled through*. [=*got by*] ▪ We won't have much money but we'll *muddle through* [=*manage*] somehow.

– **muddled** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ a *muddled* story ▪ The instructions were so *muddled* [=*confused, confusing*] that we couldn't follow them.

[2]muddle *noun* [*singular*]

1 a : a state of confusion or disorder ▪ Her thoughts were ***in a muddle***. [=she was very confused] ▪ His papers were *in a muddle*. ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) They ***got in/into a muddle*** over the train schedule. **b** : a situation or mistake caused by confusion ▪ There's been a bit of a *muddle* [=*mix-up*] about the plan.

2 : a confused mess ▪ His mind was a *muddle*.: a disordered mixture ▪ a *muddle* of documents

[1]mud•dy /ˈmʌdi/ *adj* **mud•di•er; -est**

1 : filled or covered with mud ▪ a *muddy* pond ▪ His shoes were *muddy*.

2 : similar to mud ▪ a *muddy* color ▪ *muddy* coffee

3 : not clear or bright : dull or cloudy ▪ a *muddy* complexion ▪ The recording sounded *muddy*.

4 : unclear in thought or meaning ▪ *muddy* thinking ▪ The facts in the case are *muddy*.

[2]muddy *verb* **-dies; -died; -dy•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something) muddy: such as **a** : to cover (something) with mud ▪ His shoes were *muddied*. ▪ The flooding *muddied* the roads. **b** : to make (a color) cloudy or dull ▪ She *muddied* the color by adding some brown. **c** : to cause (something) to become unclear or confused ▪ *muddying* the line between fact and fiction ▪ The debate further *muddied* the issues.

muddy the waters : to make something more complicated or difficult to understand ▪ The latest study *muddies the waters* by suggesting an alternate explanation.

mud flap *noun, pl ~* **flaps** [*count*] : a sheet of thin material that hangs behind a wheel of a vehicle and that stops mud and water from hitting the vehicle or other vehicles

mud•guard /ˈmʌdˌgɑɚd/ *noun, pl* **-guards** [*count*]

1 *US* : MUD FLAP

2 *Brit* : FENDER 2

mud•room /ˈmʌdˌru:m/ *noun, pl* **-rooms** [*count*] *US* : a room at an entrance to a house where people can leave wet or dirty shoes and clothing

mud•slide /ˈmʌdˌslaɪd/ *noun, pl* **-slides** [*count*] : a large mass of wet earth that suddenly and quickly moves down the side of a mountain or hill ▪ The heavy rain triggered a *mudslide*.

mud•sling•ing /ˈmʌdˌslɪŋɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the act or practice of publicly saying false or bad things about someone (such as a political opponent) in order to harm that person's reputation ▪ a campaign marred by *mudslinging* on both sides

– **mud•sling•er** /ˈmʌdˌslɪŋɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a political *mudslinger*

[1]muff /ˈmʌf/ *noun, pl* **muffs** [*count*] : a warm covering for your hands that is shaped like a tube with open ends in which both hands may be placed — see also EARMUFF

[2]muff *verb* **muffs; muffed; muff•ing** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to make a mistake in doing or handling (something) : BOTCH ▪ She *muffed* the speech. ▪ He *muffed* his chance for a promotion. ▪ The outfielder *muffed* an easy catch.

muf•fin /ˈmʌfən/ *noun, pl* **-fins** [*count*]

1 : a small bread or cake that is usually eaten at breakfast ▪ a blueberry/bran/corn *muffin*— see picture at BAKING

2 *Brit* : ENGLISH MUFFIN

muf•fle /ˈmʌfəl/ *verb* **muf•fles; muf•fled; muf•fling** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (a sound) quieter ▪ They tried to *muffle* the noise. : to decrease the noise made by (something) ▪ *muffle* [=*suppress*] a cough ▪ I could hear their *muffled* voices from the next room. ▪ a *muffled* cough

2 *chiefly Brit* : to wrap or cover (someone or something) in clothing or cloth for warmth or protection ▪ She was *muffled* (up) in a huge overcoat.

muf•fler /ˈmʌflɚ/ *noun, pl* **-flers** [*count*]

1 *US* : a device that is attached to the engine of a vehicle to make it quieter — called also (*Brit*) *silencer*; see picture at CAR

2 : a piece of cloth worn around your neck to keep it warm : SCARF

[1]mug /ˈmʌg/ *noun, pl* **mugs** [*count*]

1 a : a large drinking cup with a handle ▪ a collection of coffee *mugs* ▪ a beer *mug*

b : the liquid that is contained in a mug ▪ He drank a *mug* of coffee.

2 *slang* : the face or mouth of a person ▪ his ugly *mug*

3 *Brit, informal* : a foolish person who is easily tricked : PATSY ▪ They're taking you for a *mug*. ▪ Drinking and driving is ***a mug's game***. [=something that only a foolish person would do]



mug

[2]mug *verb* **mugs; mugged; mug•ging**

1 [+ *obj*] : to attack and rob (someone) ▪ He was *mugged* (when he was) walking home from work.

2 [*no obj*] *chiefly US* : to act or pose in a silly way or make silly facial expressions especially to attract attention or when being photographed — usually + *for* ▪ She was *mugging for* the camera. ▪ *mugging for* the crowd

mug up [*phrasal verb*] ***mug up or mug (something) up or mug up (something) or mug up on (something)*** *Brit, informal* : to study or try to learn a lot of information quickly for a test, exam, etc. ▪ He's going to *mug up* for the exam. ▪ She had better *mug up* before she interviews him. ▪ He *mugged up on* his French for the trip.

mug•ger /ˈmʌgɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*] : a person who attacks and robs another person : a criminal who mugs someone ▪ The police arrested the *mugger*.

mugging *noun, pl* **-gings** : the act of attacking and robbing someone : the act of mugging someone [*count*] There have been several *muggings* in the park recently. [*noncount*] The park has had an increased rate of *mugging* recently.

mug•gins /ˈmʌgənz/ *noun* [*singular*] *Brit, informal* : a foolish person who is easily tricked — usually used to refer to yourself ▪ He left early and *muggins* here was left to finish the job.

mug•gy /ˈmʌgi/ *adj* **mug•gi•er; -est** : unpleasantly warm and humid ▪ a *muggy* day in August ▪ It's very *muggy* out today. ▪ *muggy* weather

mug shot *noun, pl ~* **shots** [*count*] : a photograph of someone's face; *especially* : a photograph taken by the police of someone who has been arrested

mu•lat•to /məˈlætoʊ, məˈlɑ:toʊ/ *noun, pl* **-toes** *or* **-tos** [*count*] *old-fashioned + often offensive* : a person with one black and one white parent

mul•ber•ry /ˈmʌlˌberi, *Brit* ˈmʌlbəri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*]

1 : a type of tree that has purple berries that can be eaten — called also *mulberry tree*

2 : a berry from a mulberry tree

[1]mulch /ˈmʌlʧ/ *noun, pl* **mulch•es** [*count, noncount*] : a material (such as straw, leaves, or small pieces of wood) that is spread over the ground in a garden to protect the plants or help them grow and to stop weeds from growing ▪ She spread some *mulch* around the plants.

[2]mulch *verb* **mulches; mulched; mulch•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cover (the ground, a garden, etc.) with mulch ▪ She *mulched* the flower beds.

mule /ˈmju:l/ *noun, pl* **mules** [*count*]

1 : an animal that has a horse and a donkey as parents

2 : a woman's shoe that is open at the heel ▪ wearing a pair of *mules*

3 *slang* : someone who secretly brings illegal drugs into a country

mul•ish /ˈmju:lɪʃ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : refusing to do what other people want or to change your opinion or the way you do something : very stubborn ▪ She approached the job with

mulish determination. ▪ a *mulish* insistence on doing things his own way

mull /ˈmʌl/ *verb* **mulls; mulled; mull•ing** [+ *obj*] : to think about (something) slowly and carefully : PONDER ▪ The company is *mulling* the offer. — usually + *over* ▪ *mull over* an idea ▪ It's a fine offer, but we need time to *mull* it *over*.

mulled /ˈmʌld/ *adj* : mixed with sugar and spices and served warm ▪ *mulled* wine/cider

mul•let /ˈmələt/ *noun*
1 *pl* **mullet** *or* **mul•lets** [*count, noncount*] : a type of fish that lives in the ocean and is often eaten as food
2 *pl* **mullets** [*count*] : a hairstyle in which the hair is short on the top and sides and long in the back

mul•lion /ˈmʌljən/ *noun, pl* **-lions** [*count*] : an upright piece of wood, stone, metal, etc., that separates two windows
– **mul•lioned** /ˈmʌljənd/ *adj* ▪ *mullioned* windows

multi- *combining form*
1 a : many : much ▪ *multi*colored **b** : more than two ▪ *multi*national ▪ *multi*racial
2 : many times over ▪ *multi*millionaire

mul•ti•col•ored (*US*) *or Brit* **mul•ti•col•oured** /ˈmʌlti-ˌkʌlərd/ *adj* : having, made up of, or including many colors ▪ *multicolored* balloons/ribbons

mul•ti•cul•tur•al /ˌmʌltiˈkʌltʃərəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : relating to or including many different cultures ▪ a *multicultural* society
– **mul•ti•cul•tur•al•ism** /ˌmʌltiˈkʌltʃərəlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]

mul•ti•dis•ci•plin•ary /ˌmʌltiˈdɪsəplɛˌneri, *Brit* ˌmʌltiˈdɪsəplənəri/ *adj* : involving two or more subject areas ▪ a *multidisciplinary* class taught jointly by a history teacher and an English teacher

mul•ti•eth•nic /ˌmʌltiˈɛθnɪk/ *adj* : relating to or including people from many ethnic groups ▪ a *multiethnic* country

mul•ti•fac•et•ed /ˌmʌltiˈfæsətəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having many different parts : having many facets ▪ a *multifaceted* approach to health care

mul•ti•far•i•ous /ˌmʌltəˈferijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : of many and various kinds ▪ *multifarious* [=*diverse*] activities

mul•ti•func•tion•al /ˌmʌltiˈfʌŋkʃənəl/ *adj* : having many uses or functions : MULTIPURPOSE ▪ a *multifunctional* tool

mul•ti•lat•er•al /ˌmʌltiˈlætərəl/ *adj* : involving more than two groups or countires ▪ a *multilateral* treaty/agreement — compare BILATERAL, TRILATERAL, UNILATERAL

mul•ti•lay•ered /ˌmʌltiˈlejərd/ *adj* : having or involving three or more layers or levels ▪ a *multilayered* cake ▪ The novel's plot is *multilayered*. ▪ a *multilayered* political system

mul•ti•lin•gual /ˌmʌltiˈlɪŋgwəl/ *adj*
1 : able to speak and understand several languages ▪ *multilingual* students
2 : using or expressed in several languages ▪ *multilingual* instructions ▪ a *multilingual* dictionary ▪ *multilingual* countries — compare BILINGUAL, MONOLINGUAL

mul•ti•me•dia /ˌmʌltiˈmiːdijə/ *adj, always used before a noun* : using or involving several forms of communication or expression ▪ a *multimedia* exhibit of photographs, films, and music

mul•ti•mil•lion /ˌmʌltiˈmɪljən/ *adj, always used before a noun* : involving two or more million : costing or worth millions of dollars or pounds — often used in combination ▪ a *multimillion*-dollar home

mul•ti•mil•lion•aire /ˌmʌltiˌmɪljəˈneɚ/ *noun, pl* **-aires** [*count*] : a very wealthy person : a person who has property or money worth millions of dollars or pounds

[1]mul•ti•na•tion•al /ˌmʌltiˈnæʃənəl/ *adj*
1 : of, relating to, or involving more than two nations ▪ a *multinational* alliance/force
2 : working in several countries ▪ a *multinational* corporation

[2]multinational *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] : a company that works in several countries : a multinational corporation

mul•ti•par•ty /ˌmʌltiˈpɑɚti/ *adj* : of or involving more than one political party ▪ *multiparty* elections ▪ *multiparty* democracy

[1]mul•ti•ple /ˈmʌltəpəl/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : more than one : MANY, NUMEROUS ▪ She made *multiple* copies of the report. ▪ a person of *multiple* achievements ▪ He suffered *multiple* injuries in the accident. ▪ a ***multiple birth*** [=the birth of more than one baby at a time; a birth of twins, triplets, etc.]
2 : shared by many people ▪ *multiple* ownership [=ownership by more than one person]

[2]multiple *noun, pl* **-ti•ples** [*count*]
1 *mathematics* : a number that can be produced by multiplying a smaller number ▪ 35 is a *multiple of* 7. ▪ 12 is a *multiple* of 6.
2 *Brit* : CHAIN STORE

multiple–choice *adj*
1 : having several answers from which one is to be chosen ▪ a *multiple-choice* question
2 : made up of multiple-choice questions ▪ a *multiple-choice* test ▪ The exam will be *multiple-choice*.

multiple sclerosis *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a disease of the nervous system that causes the gradual loss of muscle control — abbr. *MS*

mul•ti•plex /ˈmʌltəˌplɛks/ *noun, pl* **-plex•es** [*count*] : a building that contains several movie theaters — called also *multiplex cinema*

mul•ti•pli•ca•tion /ˌmʌltəpləˈkeɪʃən/ *noun*
1 [*noncount*] *mathematics* : the process of adding a number to itself a certain number of times : the act or process of multiplying numbers ▪ Students are learning *multiplication* and division.
2 : an increase in the number or amount of something [*noncount*] a disease causing uncontrolled *multiplication* of cells [*singular*] an uncontrolled *multiplication* of cells

multiplication sign *noun, pl* ~ **signs** [*count*] *mathematics* : a symbol (such as "x") that is used to show that two numbers are to be multiplied — usually singular

multiplication table *noun, pl* ~ **tables** [*count*] *mathematics* : a list that shows the results of multiplying certain numbers (such as 1 through 12) by each other — called also *times table*

mul•ti•plic•i•ty /ˌmʌltəˈplɪsəti/ *noun* [*singular*] *formal* : a very large number — + *of* ▪ a *multiplicity of* colors/ideas/styles

mul•ti•ply /ˈmʌltəˌplaɪ/ *verb* **-plies; -plied; -ply•ing**
1 a [*no obj*] : to increase greatly in number or amount : to become much more numerous ▪ Complaints about the new procedure soon *multiplied*. ▪ Her responsibilities *multiplied* when she was promoted. **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to increase greatly in number or amount ▪ Her responsibilities were *multiplied* by the promotion.
2 [*no obj*] : to increase in number by reproducing ▪ The bacteria *multiply* rapidly in warm, moist conditions.
3 *mathematics* : to add a number to itself a certain number of times [+ *obj*] If you *multiply* 5 by 2 you get 10. = If you *multiply* 5 and 2 (together) you get 10. = 5 *multiplied* by 2 equals 10. [*no obj*] The teacher taught the children how to add, subtract, *multiply*, and divide. — compare DIVIDE

mul•ti•pur•pose /ˌmʌltiˈpɚpəs/ *adj* : having more than one use or purpose ▪ *multipurpose* furniture ▪ a *multipurpose* room/tool

mul•ti•ra•cial /ˌmʌltiˈreɪʃəl/ *adj* : relating to or including more than one race of people ▪ a *multiracial* society ▪ His family is *multiracial*.

mul•ti•sto•ry (*US*) *or Brit* **mul•ti•sto•rey** /ˌmʌltiˈstori/ *adj, of a building* : having many stories ▪ a *multistory* apartment building ▪ (*Brit*) a ***multistorey car park*** [=a parking garage with more than one level]

mul•ti•task•ing /ˈmʌltiˌtæskɪŋ, *Brit* ˈmʌltiˌtɑːskɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the ability to do several things at the same time ▪ The job requires someone who is good at *multitasking*.

mul•ti•tude /ˈmʌltəˌtuːd, *Brit* ˈmʌltəˌtjuːd/ *noun, pl* **-tudes** [*count*]
1 : a great number of things or people ▪ A vast *multitude* [=a great crowd of people] waited to hear the news. — often + *of* ▪ A *multitude of* complaints reached the office. ▪ a *multitude of* choices ▪ Some new paint on an old house can ***cover/hide a multitude of sins*** [=can hide many problems or faults]
2 ***the multitude*** : ordinary or common people as a group ▪ a candidate trying to appeal to *the multitude* — often plural ▪ His films are not intended to appeal to *the multitudes*. [=*masses*]

mul•ti•tu•di•nous /ˌmʌltəˈtuːdnəs, *Brit* ˌmʌltəˈtjuːdənəs/ *adj, formal* : very many ▪ *multitudinous* questions/concerns ▪ Their lives have changed in *multitudinous* ways.

mul•ti•us•er /ˈmʌltiˌjuːzɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun, computers* : able to be used by more than one person at a time ▪ *multiuser* software ▪ a *multiuser* computer system

mul•ti•vi•ta•min /ˌmʌltiˈvaɪtəmən, *Brit* ˌmʌltiˈvɪtəmən/

noun, pl **-mins** [*count*] : a pill that contains many vitamins

mul·ti·vol·ume /ˌmʌltiˈvɑːlˌjuːm/ *adj, always used before a noun* : published as two or more books : having more than one volume ▪ a *multivolume* biography/encyclopedia

[1]mum /ˈmʌm/ *adj, informal* : not talking about something ▪ I'd like to know how much they paid, but they've been *mum* on that subject. ▪ She told him to ***keep/stay mum*** about the project. [=she told him not to tell anyone about the project]

mum's the word *informal* — used to say that some information is being kept secret or should be kept secret ▪ We want her birthday party to be a surprise, so *mum's the word*. [=don't tell her about the party]

[2]mum *noun, pl* **mums** [*count*] *US* : CHRYSANTHEMUM

[3]mum *noun, pl* **mums** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : MOTHER, MOM

[1]mum·ble /ˈmʌmbəl/ *verb* **mum·bles; mum·bled; mum·bling** : to say (something) quietly in an unclear way that makes it difficult for people to know what you said [+ *obj*] He *mumbled* something and then left. ▪ He *mumbled* "Goodbye" and then left. [*no obj*] I can't understand you when you *mumble*. ▪ a *mumbling* response

– **mum·bler** /ˈmʌmbələ/ *noun, pl* **-blers** [*count*]

– **mumbling** *noun, pl* **-blings** [*count, noncount*] ▪ There were *mumblings* [=*rumblings*] (of discontent) about the decision. [=people complained quietly to each other about the decision]

[2]mumble *noun* [*singular*] : a way of speaking that is not clear enough to be understood ▪ He answered in his usual *mumble*. ▪ She spoke in a *mumble*.

mum·bo jum·bo /ˌmʌmbouˈʤʌmbou/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : confusing or meaningless words or activity : NONSENSE ▪ We were confused by all the legal *mumbo jumbo*. ▪ His explanation was just a lot of *mumbo jumbo*.

mum·mi·fy /ˈmʌmiˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies; -fied; -fy·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to preserve (a dead body) by treating it with oils and wrapping it in strips of cloth ▪ learning how ancient Egyptians *mummified* their dead

2 : to become very dry and wrinkled [*no obj*] a body that *mummified* in the desert heat [+ *obj*] a body that was *mummified* by the desert heat

– **mummified** *adj* ▪ a *mummified* body

[1]mum·my /ˈmʌmi/ *noun, pl* **-mies** [*count*] : a dead body of a person or animal prepared for burial in the manner of the ancient Egyptians by treating it with oils and wrapping it in strips of cloth

[2]mummy *noun, pl* **-mies** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : MOTHER, MOMMY — used especially by children ▪ Where's my *mummy*?

mumps /ˈmʌmps/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a disease that causes fever and swelling in the lower part of the cheek ▪ *Mumps* is usually a childhood illness. ▪ She got (the) *mumps*.

munch /ˈmʌnʧ/ *verb* **munch·es; munched; munch·ing** : to chew or eat (something) especially in a noisy way [+ *obj*] We *munched* [=*snacked on*] popcorn during the movie. ▪ cattle *munching* grass [*no obj*] — + *on* ▪ We *munched on* popcorn during the movie.

munch·ies /ˈmʌnʧiz/ *noun, informal*

1 [*plural*] *US* : light foods that are eaten as a snack ▪ *Munchies* are served at the bar.

2 *the munchies* : a feeling of hunger ▪ I have a serious case of *the munchies*. [=I'm very hungry] ▪ I always get/have *the munchies* when I'm watching TV. = Watching TV always gives me *the munchies*.

munch·kin /ˈmʌnʧˌkɪn/ *noun, pl* **-kins** [*count*] *US, informal* : a child or small person ▪ "What's wrong, *munchkin*?" she asked the toddler. ✧ The original Munchkins were a race of small people in the book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (1900) by L. Frank Baum. The 1939 movie *The Wizard of Oz* was based on this book.

mun·dane /ˌmʌnˈdeɪn/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : dull and ordinary ▪ *mundane* chores, like washing dishes ▪ They lead a pretty *mundane* life.

2 : relating to ordinary life on earth rather than to spiritual things ▪ prayer and meditation helped her put her *mundane* worries aside

mung bean /ˈmʌŋ-/ *noun, pl* ~ **beans** [*count*] : a small, round bean often used to grow bean sprouts

mu·nic·i·pal /mjuˈnɪsəpəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to the government of a city or town ▪ *municipal* government ▪ a *municipal* building/library/election

mu·nic·i·pal·i·ty /mjuˌnɪsəˈpæləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*count*] : a city or town that has its own government to deal with local problems ▪ laws that have been enacted by many states and *municipalities*; *also, chiefly Brit* : the group of people who run such a government ▪ locally elected *municipalities*

mu·nif·i·cent /mjuˈnɪfəsənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : very generous ▪ a *munificent* gift/donation ▪ a *munificent* benefactor

– **mu·nif·i·cence** /mjuˈnɪfəsəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *munificence* of their donation

mu·ni·tions /mjuˈnɪʃənz/ *noun* [*plural*] : military supplies and equipment; *especially* : military weapons ▪ rockets and other *munitions* ▪ unexploded *munitions* ▪ a *munitions* factory

mu·ral /ˈmjʊrəl/ *noun, pl* **-rals** [*count*] : a usually large painting that is done directly on the surface of a wall

[1]mur·der /ˈməḍə/ *noun, pl* **-ders**

1 : the crime of deliberately killing a person [*noncount*] He was found guilty of (committing) *murder*. ▪ She was accused/convicted of *murder*. ▪ She was charged with *murder*. [=she was officially accused of the crime of murder] ▪ the mass *murder* of civilians in wartime [*count*] a string of unsolved *murders* — often used before another noun ▪ the *murder* weapon ▪ a *murder* suspect/victim/case ▪ *murder* mysteries [=mystery stories about murder]

2 [*noncount*] *informal* : something that is very difficult or unpleasant ▪ That test was *murder*. [=it was very difficult] ▪ Traffic is *murder* this time of day. ✧ To ***be murder on*** something is to cause pain or harm to it. ▪ Carrying the luggage *was murder on* my back. ▪ These shoes *are murder on* my feet.

get away with murder : to murder someone without being captured or punished ▪ a vicious killer who nearly *got away with murder* — usually used figuratively to describe someone who does something very bad or wrong without being criticized or punished ▪ The company had been *getting away with murder* for years before the scandal broke.

scream bloody/blue murder see [1]SCREAM

[2]murder *verb* **-ders; -dered; -der·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to kill (a person) in a deliberate and unlawful way : to commit the murder of (someone) ▪ He was arrested and accused of *murdering* his wife. ▪ His wife was found *murdered*. ▪ a dictator who is responsible for *murdering* thousands of innocent people — sometimes used figuratively ▪ My father will *murder* me [=he will be very angry] when he finds out that I dented the car.

2 *informal* **a** : to spoil or ruin (something) ▪ a writer who *murders* [=*butchers*] the English language : to perform (something) very badly ▪ The band *murdered* that song. **b** : to defeat (an opponent) very badly ▪ He got *murdered* [=*slaughtered*] in the opening round by last year's winner.

– **mur·der·er** /ˈməḍərə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a convicted *murderer* ▪ a ***mass murderer*** [=a person who has killed many people] – **mur·der·ess** /ˈməḍərəs/ *noun, pl* **-ess·es** [*count*] *old-fashioned* ▪ an infamous *murderess* [=a woman who commits murder]

mur·der·ous /ˈməḍərəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very violent or deadly ▪ *murderous* machine-gun fire ▪ a *murderous* dictator/attack ▪ a *murderous* regime

2 a : very angry ▪ a *murderous* glance **b** : very harsh or severe ▪ I can't stand this *murderous* heat. ▪ The lead runner set a *murderous* pace.

– **mur·der·ous·ly** *adv* ▪ a *murderously* intolerant regime ▪ *murderously* hot weather ▪ a *murderously* angry glance

murk /ˈməːk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : darkness or fog that is hard to see through ▪ A figure emerged from the *murk*. [=*gloom*]; *also* : dark or dirty water ▪ We could not see the bottom of the lake through the *murk*.

murky /ˈməːki/ *adj* **murk·i·er; -est**

1 a : very dark or foggy ▪ *murky* skies ▪ She peered into one of the church's *murky* chapels. **b** *of a liquid* : not clear : CLOUDY ▪ the lake's *murky* water

2 a : not clearly expressed or understood ▪ He offered a *murky* [=*vague*] explanation. ▪ Her employment history is somewhat *murky*. [=*unclear*] **b** : involving dishonest or illegal activities that are not clearly known ▪ a politician with a *murky* past

– **murk·i·ly** /ˈməːkəli/ *adv* – **murk·i·ness** /ˈməːkinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *murkiness* of the water

[1]mur·mur /ˈməːmə/ *noun, pl* **-murs**

1 [*count*] **a** : a low sound made when many people are speaking ▪ a *murmur* of voices ▪ the *murmur* of the crowd **b** : a quiet expression of an opinion or feeling ▪ The suggestion brought *murmurs* of disapproval. ▪ a *murmur* of agreement/protest ▪ *murmurs* of recognition ▪ They accepted the deci-

sion ***without a murmur*** (of protest/complaint). [=they accepted the decision without protesting/complaining at all] **c** : speech or a way of speaking that is quiet and soft ▪ He spoke in a *murmur*. ▪ They spoke to each other in *murmurs*. **2** [*singular*] : a low, quiet, and continuous sound ▪ a *murmur* of bees ▪ the *murmur* of the waves along the shore **3** [*count*] *medical* : an unusual heart sound that may indicate a problem with the heart's function or structure — usually singular ▪ Her doctor detected a (heart) *murmur* during a routine physical exam.

[2]murmur *verb* **-murs; -mured; -mur•ing** **1** [+ *obj*] : to say (something) in a quiet and soft voice ▪ He *murmured* something about having to get home. ▪ "Thank you," she *murmured* as she left the room. **2** [*no obj*] : to make a low, continuous sound ▪ The breeze *murmured* in the pines. ▪ the *murmuring* breeze
– **murmuring** *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count, noncount*] ▪ We could hear the *murmuring* of the bees. ▪ *Murmurings* (of disapproval) were heard [=people complained quietly] when the decision was announced.

Mur•phy bed /'mɚfi-/ *noun, pl* ~ **beds** [*count*] *US* : a bed with a frame that can be folded into a space in a wall

Mur•phy's Law /'mɚfiz-/ *noun* [*noncount*] — used to refer to the humorous statement that if it is possible for something to go wrong then it will go wrong — called also (*Brit*) *Sod's Law*

[1]mus•cle /'mʌsəl/ *noun, pl* **mus•cles** **1** : a body tissue that can contract and produce movement [*count*] the *muscles* of the arm ▪ stomach *muscles* ▪ flex a *muscle* ▪ relax a *muscle* ▪ an athlete with bulging/rippling *muscles* ▪ He pulled/tore/strained a *muscle* playing tennis. ▪ She has a strained *muscle* in her back. ▪ Wait here and ***don't move a muscle***. [=don't move at all] [*noncount*] She started lifting weights to build *muscle*. — often used before another noun ▪ *muscle* fiber(s)/tissue ▪ *muscle* spasms ▪ an athlete practicing to develop ***muscle memory*** [=the ability to repeat a bodily movement exactly] ▪ a ***muscle relaxant*** [=a drug that relaxes muscles] **2** [*noncount*] **a** : physical strength ▪ She doesn't have the *muscle* to lift something so heavy. ▪ To clean that floor you have to ***put some muscle into*** it. [=you have to make a forceful effort] **b** : power and influence ▪ He lacks the political *muscle* [=*clout*] to get the policy changed.
flex your muscles see [1]FLEX

[2]muscle *verb* **muscles; mus•cled; mus•cling** **1** [+ *obj*] : to move (something) by using physical strength and force ▪ They *muscled* the heavy boxes onto the truck. ▪ They *muscled* the furniture up the stairs. — often used figuratively ▪ She was *muscled* [=*forced*] out of office by political opponents. ▪ He helped *muscle* the bill through Congress. **2** : to move forward by using physical force [*no obj*] He *muscled* through the crowd. ▪ They *muscled* into line behind us. [+ *obj*] He ***muscled his way*** through the crowd. [=he moved ahead by pushing and forcing people to move out of the way]
muscle in [*phrasal verb*] : to use force or influence in a way that is wrong or unwanted in order to become involved in something for selfish reasons — usually + *on* ▪ His competitors have tried to *muscle in on* his business.

mus•cle–bound /'mʌsəl,baʊnd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having large muscles that do not move and stretch easily ▪ a *muscle-bound* athlete — sometimes used figuratively ▪ a *muscle-bound* [=*rigid, inflexible*] organization

muscle car *noun, pl* ~ **cars** [*count*] *US, informal* : an American-made two-door sports car with a powerful engine

mus•cled /'mʌsəld/ *adj* : having large muscles or muscles of a specified kind ▪ his *muscled* [=*muscular*] back ▪ hard-*muscled* arms ▪ a lightly *muscled* runner [=a runner with fairly small muscles]

mus•cle•man /'mʌsəl,mæn/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-,mɛn/ [*count*] : a strong man with large muscles ▪ *musclemen* and bodybuilders working out in the gym

Mus•co•vite /'mʌskə,vaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-vites** [*count*] : a person who lives in or comes from Moscow
– **Muscovite** *adj*

mus•cu•lar /'mʌskjələ/ *adj* **1** : of or relating to muscles ▪ *muscular* strength/weakness ▪ a *muscular* injury **2** [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having large and strong muscles ▪ a *muscular* athlete ▪ He has a *muscular* physique. ▪ His legs are very *muscular*.
– **mus•cu•lar•i•ty** /,mʌskjə'lerəti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

muscular dys•tro•phy /-'dɪstrəfi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a serious disease that causes increasing weakness of muscles

mus•cu•la•ture /'mʌskjələ,ʧuɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the muscles of the body or of one of its parts ▪ human *musculature* ▪ facial *musculature* ▪ an athlete with well-developed *musculature*

[1]muse /'mju:z/ *verb* **mus•es; mused; mus•ing** **1** [*no obj*] : to think about something carefully or thoroughly — usually + *about, on, over*, or *upon* ▪ She *mused on* the possibility of changing jobs. ▪ *musing about/over* what might have been **2** [+ *obj*] : to think or say (something) in a thoughtful way ▪ I could sell the house, she *mused*, but then where would I go?
– **musing** *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] He recorded his *musings* [=*thoughts*] in his diary. [*noncount*] Her *musing* was interrupted by the arrival of her friend. – **mus•ing•ly** /'mju:zɪŋli/ *adv* ▪ "I could sell the house," she said *musingly*, "but then where would I go?"

[2]muse *noun, pl* **muses** [*count*] **1** : a person who causes someone else to have ideas about creating a work of art : a person who inspires an artist, writer, etc. ▪ The writer lost his *muse* when his wife left him. **2** ***Muse*** : any one of the nine sister goddesses of song and poetry and the arts and sciences in Greek mythology

mu•se•um /mjʊ'zi:jəm/ *noun, pl* **-ums** [*count*] : a building in which interesting and valuable things (such as paintings and sculptures or scientific or historical objects) are collected and shown to the public ▪ an art *museum* ▪ a history *museum* ▪ a *museum* of natural history

museum piece *noun, pl* ~ **pieces** [*count*] **1** : a valuable object that is in a museum or that is suitable for a museum **2** : something or someone that is very old or old-fashioned ▪ That old computer will soon be a *museum piece*.

[1]mush /'mʌʃ/ *noun* **1** : a soft and wet mass of material (such as food) [*noncount*] The rotting apples turned into/to *mush*. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ I was so tired my brain ***turned into/to mush***. [=I was too tired to think well] [*singular*] a *mush* of rotting apples **2** [*noncount*] *US* : a soft food made by boiling cornmeal in water or milk ▪ a bowl of *mush* **3** /'mʊʃ/ [*noncount*] *informal* + *disapproving* : a story or part of a story in a book, movie, etc., that is too romantic or sentimental ▪ a movie full of *mush*

[2]mush *interj* — used as a command to tell dogs to start pulling a sled

[1]mush•room /'mʌʃ,ru:m/ *noun, pl* **-rooms** [*count*] : a fungus that is shaped like an umbrella ▪ wild *mushrooms*; *especially* : one that can be eaten ▪ cut up some *mushrooms* for the salad — often used before another noun ▪ *mushroom* soup ▪ a ***mushroom cap*** [=the top part of a mushroom] — compare TOADSTOOL; see also BUTTON MUSHROOM


mushroom

[2]mushroom *verb* **-rooms; -roomed; -room•ing** [*no obj*] **1** : to increase or develop very quickly ▪ The population has *mushroomed* [=*shot up*] over the past 10 years. = The town has *mushroomed* in population over the past 10 years. ▪ Interest in local history is suddenly *mushrooming*. ▪ Her hobby *mushroomed* into a thriving business. **2** : to collect wild mushrooms ▪ He goes *mushrooming* in the spring every year.

mushroom cloud *noun, pl* ~ **clouds** [*count*] : a large cloud that forms after an explosion; *especially* : a cloud that is caused by the explosion of a nuclear weapon

mushy /'mʌʃi/ *adj* **mush•i•er; -est** **1** : soft and wet ▪ The rotting apples turned *mushy*. [=the rotting apples turned to mush] **2** *informal* + *disapproving* : too romantic or sentimental ▪ a *mushy* movie/novel

mu•sic /'mju:zɪk/ *noun* [*noncount*] **1** : sounds that are sung by voices or played on musical instruments ▪ listening to live/recorded *music* ▪ This is one of my favorite pieces of *music*. ▪ performing *music* in front of an audience ▪ dancing to the *music* of a big band ▪ They are writing/composing *music* for a new album. ▪ a song with *music* by George Gershwin and words/lyrics by Ira Gershwin ▪

classical/popular *music* ▪ They like to ***make music*** [=play or sing music] with friends. ▪ The play/poem was ***set to music***. [=music was written to go with the words of the play/poem] ▪ ***background music*** [=music played while something else is happening] — often used before another noun ▪ the *music* industry ▪ a ***music video*** [=a video recording of a performance of popular music] — see also CHAMBER MUSIC, COUNTRY MUSIC, FOLK MUSIC, SOUL MUSIC

2 : written or printed symbols showing how music should be played or sung ▪ He is learning to read *music*. ▪ a ***music stand*** [=a holder on which printed music is placed so that a musician can see it while playing or singing] — see also SHEET MUSIC

3 : the art or skill of creating or performing music ▪ She studied *music* in college. ▪ *music* theory

4 : a pleasant sound ▪ the *music* of a brook ▪ Her words were ***music to my ears***. [=I was very happy to hear what she said]

face the music see [2]FACE

[1]mu•si•cal /'mju:zɪkəl/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* : of or relating to music ▪ the film's *musical* score ▪ *musical* notes ▪ a ***musical instrument*** [=a device (such as a violin, piano, or flute) used to make music]

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having the pleasing qualities of music ▪ She has a very *musical* voice.

3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : enjoying music : having a talent for playing music ▪ a *musical* family

4 *always used before a noun* : having music and songs as a main feature : telling a story with songs ▪ a *musical* film/play

– **mu•si•cal•i•ty** /ˌmju:zɪ'kæləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *musicality* [=musical quality] of the performance ▪ a dancer who shows great *musicality* [=musical talent] – **mu•si•cal•ly** /'mju:zɪkli/ *adv* ▪ a *musically* talented child ▪ a *musically* complex symphony ▪ expressing her feelings *musically* [=through music]

[2]musical *noun, pl* **-cals** [*count*] : a movie or play that tells a story with songs and often dancing ▪ a Broadway *musical* — called also *musical comedy*

musical box *noun, pl* ~ **boxes** [*count*] *Brit* : MUSIC BOX

musical chairs *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : a children's game in which players walk around a row of chairs while music plays and try to sit down when the music stops ✧ In musical chairs the number of chairs is always one less than the number of players, and the player who is not fast enough to find a chair when the music stops has to leave the game.

2 : a situation in which many changes happen in a way that is confusing or harmful ▪ The changes in the administration amounted to a game of *musical chairs*.

musical comedy *noun, pl* ~ **-dies** [*count*] : [2]MUSICAL

music box *noun, pl* ~ **boxes** [*count*] : a box that contains a device which plays a tune when the box is open — called also (*Brit*) *musical box*

music hall *noun, pl* ~ **halls** [*count*] : a theater in which popular entertainers performed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries — often used before another noun ▪ a *music-hall* performer ▪ *music-hall* dancers/comedians; *also* [*noncount*] *chiefly Brit* : the type of entertainment that was performed in such a theater : VAUDEVILLE

mu•si•cian /mju'zɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-cians** [*count*] : a person who writes, sings, or plays music ▪ She's a very talented *musician*. ▪ a rock/jazz/classical *musician*

mu•si•cian•ship /mju'zɪʃənˌʃɪp/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the skill of performing or writing music ▪ The critics praised her *musicianship*.

mu•si•col•o•gy /ˌmju:zɪ'kɑ:lədʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the study of music as an area of knowledge or as a field of research ▪ a professor of *musicology*

– **mu•si•col•o•gist** /ˌmju:zɪ'kɑ:lədʒɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*]

musk /'mʌsk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a strong-smelling substance used in perfume

– **musky** /'mʌski/ *adj* **musk•i•er; -est** ▪ a *musky* scent/odor ▪ a *musky* perfume

mus•ket /'mʌskət/ *noun, pl* **-kets** [*count*] : a type of long gun that was used by soldiers before the invention of the rifle

mus•ke•teer /ˌmʌskə'tiɚ/ *noun, pl* **-teers** [*count*] : a soldier who has a musket

musk•rat /'mʌskˌræt/ *noun, pl* **muskrat** *or* **musk•rats** [*count*] : a North American animal that lives in or near water — see picture at RODENT

Mus•lim /'mʌzləm/ *noun, pl* **Mus•lims** [*count*] : a person whose religion is Islam : a follower of Islam

– **Muslim** *adj* ▪ the *Muslim* faith

mus•lin /'mʌzlən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a thin and loosely woven cotton cloth ▪ curtains of white *muslin*

muss /'mʌs/ *verb* **muss•es; mussed; muss•ing** [+ *obj*] *US, informal* : to make (something, such as clothing or hair) messy or untidy ▪ His suit was/got *mussed* when he got out of the car. — often + *up* ▪ The wind *mussed up* my hair.

mus•sel /'mʌsəl/ *noun, pl* **-sels** [*count*] : a type of shellfish that has a long dark shell — see color picture on page C8

[1]must /'mʌst/ *verb* [*modal verb*]

1 a *somewhat formal in US English* — used to say that something is required or necessary ▪ You *must* stop. [=you have to stop; I command you to stop] ▪ I told him what he *must* do. [=what he had to do] ▪ One *must* eat to live. ▪ You *must* follow the rules. ▪ We *must* [=*have to, need to*] correct these problems soon or the project will fail. ▪ I *must* remember to stop at the store. ▪ "*Must* you go?" [=do you have to go?] "Yes, I'm afraid I really *must*." ▪ "*Must* you go?" "No, I don't have to." ▪ If you *must* go, at least wait until the storm is over. ▪ It *must* be noted, however, that the company was already in financial difficulties. ▪ We *must* keep/bear in mind that she didn't have any previous experience. = It *must* be borne in mind that she didn't have any previous experience. ✧ Note the difference in meaning between ***must not*** and ***not have to***. ▪ You *must not* do it. [=it is necessary that you do not do it; I command you not to do it] ▪ You *don't have to* do it. [=it is not necessary for you to do it] **b** — used to say that something is required by a rule or law ▪ All passengers *must* exit at the next stop. ▪ Students *must* have completed Sociology 101 before they can take Sociology 102.

2 *somewhat formal in US English* — used to say that someone should do something ▪ You *must* [=*ought to, should, have to*] read this book. It's fantastic! ▪ You *must* come visit us soon. [=we would like to have you come visit us soon] ▪ You really *must* see the doctor about that cough. [=I urge you to see the doctor; I really think you need to see the doctor]

3 — used to say that something is very likely ▪ It *must* be almost dinner time. ▪ She *must* think I'm a fool. ▪ It *must* have been the coffee that kept me awake. ▪ He *must* have been the most gifted student at the school. [=I think he was the most gifted student] ▪ He *must* have a lot of money to live the way he does. ▪ The bus *must* be coming soon. ▪ You haven't eaten all day. You *must* be hungry. ▪ You're going to wear that? You *must* be joking! ▪ You *must* have been very worried. ▪ You *must* be thrilled about the new baby. ▪ If he really was there, I *must* have seen him, but I don't remember seeing him. ▪ There *must* be some mistake.

4 — used in various phrases to emphasize a statement ▪ ***I must say***, I was surprised to hear from him. ▪ She's a talented actress, *I must say*. ▪ She's a talented actress, ***you must admit***. ▪ ***I must admit***, I expected better results. ▪ ***I must warn you***, this will not be easy. ▪ ***I must confess***, I haven't actually read the book yet.

5 *somewhat formal in US English* — used in questions that express annoyance or anger ▪ *Must* you be so unreasonable? [=do you have to be so unreasonable?] ▪ Why *must* it always rain on the weekend? [=why does it always have to rain on the weekend?]

if you must — used to say that you will allow someone to do something even though you do not approve of it ▪ You can smoke *if you must*, but please do it outdoors.

if you must know see [1]KNOW

[2]must *noun, pl* **musts** [*count*] : something that is or seems to be required or necessary — usually singular ▪ If you're going to hike this trail, sturdy shoes are a *must*. ▪ Regular exercise is a *must* [=is very important; is strongly recommended] as you grow older.

mus•tache (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **mous•tache** /'mʌˌstæʃ, *Brit* mə'stɑ:ʃ/ *noun, pl* **-tach•es** [*count*] : hair growing on a man's upper lip ▪ He used a small pair of scissors to trim his *mustache*. ▪ He decided to grow a *mustache*. ▪ The actor was wearing a false/fake *mustache*. — see picture at BEARD

– **mus•tached** (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **mous•tached** /'mʌˌstæʃt, *Brit* mə'stɑ:ʃt/ *adj* ▪ a *mustached* man [=a man who has a mustache]

mus•ta•chio (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **mous•ta•chio** /mə'stæʃiˌoʊ, *Brit* mə'stɑ:ʃiˌoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-chios** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a large mustache

– **mus•ta•chioed** (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **mous•ta•chioed** /mə'stæʃiˌoʊd, *Brit* mə'stɑ:ʃiˌoʊd/ *adj* ▪ a *mustachioed* villain in a melodrama

M

mus·tang /ˈmʌˌstæŋ/ *noun, pl* **-tangs** [*count*] : a small and strong wild horse of western North America

mus·tard /ˈmʌstəd/ *noun, pl* **-tards** [*count, noncount*]
1 : a thick and spicy yellow or brownish-yellow sauce that is usually eaten with meat ▪ Would you like some *mustard* on your hot dog?
2 : a plant with yellow flowers, leaves that can be used for food, and seeds that are used in making mustard
3 : a brownish-yellow color — see color picture on page C2
(as) keen as mustard see ¹KEEN
cut the mustard *informal* : to be good enough to succeed or to do what is needed ▪ She tried to join the soccer team, but she couldn't *cut the mustard*. ▪ Now that we have computers, typewriters just don't *cut the mustard* anymore.

mustard gas *noun* [*noncount*] : a poison gas used as a weapon in a war

¹mus·ter /ˈmʌstə/ *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter·ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to work hard to find or get (courage, support, etc.) ▪ They pushed the car with all the strength they could *muster*. ▪ He finally *mustered* (up) the courage to ask her on a date. ▪ The country's leaders have been trying to *muster* (up) support for the war. ▪ They *mustered* (up) the 20 votes needed to pass the law.
2 : to gather together (a group of people, soldiers, etc.) especially for battle or war [+ *obj*] *muster* an army [*no obj*] The soldiers *mustered* [=*gathered*] in the center of town.

²muster *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a formal military gathering to examine or test soldiers ▪ a *muster* of soldiers
pass muster : to be judged as acceptable or good enough ▪ These excuses will not *pass muster*. [=they are not acceptable] ▪ His cooking could *pass muster* in an expensive French restaurant.

must–have /ˈmʌstˌhæv/ *noun, pl* **-haves** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* : something that is necessary to have or get ▪ The newest version of the software is a *must-have*.
– **must–have** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *must-have* software ▪ a *must-have* accessory

mustn't /ˈmʌsnt/ — used as a contraction of *must not* ▪ We *mustn't* forget the lessons that history has taught us. ▪ You *mustn't* say such things.

must–see /ˈmʌstˈsi:/ *noun, pl* **-sees** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* : something that must or should be seen ▪ His latest movie is a *must-see*.
– **must–see** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *must-see* movie

must've /ˈmʌstəv/ — used as a contraction of *must have* ▪ He *must've* left already.

musty /ˈmʌsti/ *adj* **must·i·er**; **-est** : having a bad smell because of wetness, old age, or lack of fresh air ▪ *musty* old books ▪ a dark and *musty* basement
– **must·i·ness** /ˈmʌstinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

mu·ta·ble /ˈmju:təbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : able or likely to change often ▪ *mutable* opinions ▪ the government's *mutable* economic policies — opposite IMMUTABLE
– **mu·ta·bil·i·ty** /ˌmju:təˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *mutability* of the government's policies

mu·tant /ˈmju:tnt/ *noun, pl* **-tants** [*count*] *biology* : a plant or animal that is different from other plants or animals of the same kind because of a change in the structure of its genes : something produced by genetic mutation
– **mutant** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *mutant* fish

mu·tate /ˈmju:ˌteɪt/ *verb* **-tates**; **-tat·ed**; **-tat·ing**
1 *biology* **a** [+ *obj*] : to cause (a gene) to change and create an unusual characteristic in a plant or animal : to cause mutation in (a gene) ▪ a disease that *mutates* genes in humans ▪ a group of *mutated* genes **b** [*no obj*] : to change and cause an unusual characteristic to develop in a plant or animal ▪ The cells *mutated*.
2 [*no obj*] : to change *into* something very different ▪ Over time, her feelings *mutated* from hatred *into* love. ▪ opera singers *mutating into* pop stars

mu·ta·tion /mjuˈteɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 *biology* : a change in the genes of a plant or animal that causes physical characteristics that are different from what is normal [*noncount*] The cat's short tail is the result of *mutation*. [*count*] The condition is caused by a genetic *mutation*. ▪ The cat's short tail is the result of a *mutation*. ▪ *mutations* in mice
2 [*count*] : a new form of something that has changed ▪ The building is a *mutation* of the original design.
– **mu·ta·tion·al** /mjuˈteɪʃənl/ *adj* ▪ a *mutational* change

¹mute /ˈmju:t/ *adj*
1 : not able or willing to speak ▪ The defendant stood *mute* [=*silent*] during questioning. ▪ She knew the answer, but she decided to remain *mute*. [=*silent*] ▪ We just sat there, *mute* [=*speechless*], unable to explain what happened. ▪ The scientists have been *mute* [=they have not said anything] about the results of the tests. ▪ *mute* witnesses
2 : felt or expressed without the use of words ▪ They hugged each other in *mute* sympathy. ▪ I could see a *mute* plea for help in his eyes.
– **mute·ly** *adv* ▪ They waited *mutely* [=*silently*, *quietly*] for an answer. ▪ We stood staring *mutely* at the sky.

²mute *noun, pl* **mutes** [*count*]
1 *sometimes offensive* : a person who cannot speak
2 : a device on a musical instrument (such as a trumpet) that makes its sound much softer

³mute *verb* **mutes**; **mut·ed**; **mut·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 a : to make (a sound) softer or quieter ▪ They covered their ears to *mute* [=*muffle*] the sound of the guns. ▪ We *muted* our voices. **b** : to make (something, such as a television) silent ▪ He used the remote control to *mute* the TV.
2 : to make (something) softer or less harsh ▪ The loud colors in this room need to be *muted*. ▪ He *muted* his criticism of the president. [=he expressed his criticism less harshly]

mut·ed /ˈmju:təd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : soft in color : not bright ▪ We painted our house a *muted* [=*dull*] blue. ▪ The artist chose colors that are dark and *muted*. ▪ *muted* lighting
2 : soft or quiet in sound : quieter than usual ▪ the *muted* sound of a distant trumpet ▪ *muted* voices
3 : not done or expressed in a strong, forceful, or excited way ▪ a *muted* political discussion ▪ The government chose a more *muted* response to the threat. ▪ Their proposal has drawn a *muted* reaction from most observers.

mu·ti·late /ˈmju:təˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates**; **-lat·ed**; **-lat·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to cause severe damage to (the body of a person or animal) ▪ traps that *mutilate* animals — usually used as *(be) mutilated* ▪ Her arm *was mutilated* in a car accident. ▪ the *mutilated* body of a murder victim
2 : to ruin the beauty of (something) : to severely damage or spoil (something) ▪ a painting *mutilated* by vandals ▪ *mutilated* books
– **mu·ti·la·tion** /ˌmju:təˈleɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*noncount*] a victim of *mutilation* [*count*] facial *mutilations*

mu·ti·neer /ˌmju:təˈniə/ *noun, pl* **-neers** [*count*] : a person who is involved in a mutiny

mu·ti·nous /ˈmju:tənəs/ *adj*
1 : involved in a mutiny ▪ *mutinous* sailors
2 [*more ~; most ~*] : feeling or showing a desire not to do what someone has told or ordered you to do ▪ Several *mutinous* [=*rebellious*] party members threatened to defect to the opposition.

mu·ti·ny /ˈmju:təni/ *noun, pl* **-nies** [*count*] : a situation in which a group of people (such as sailors or soldiers) refuse to obey orders and try to take control away from the person who commands them ▪ The *mutiny* was led by the ship's cook. ▪ The sailors staged a *mutiny* and took control of the ship.
– **mutiny** *verb* **-nies**; **-nied**; **-ny·ing** [*no obj*] ▪ The crew was threatening to *mutiny*.

mutt /ˈmʌt/ *noun, pl* **mutts** [*count*] *informal* : a dog with parents of different breeds : MONGREL — sometimes used in a disapproving way to refer to a dog of any kind ▪ a mangy *mutt*

mut·ter /ˈmʌtə/ *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter·ing**
1 : to speak quietly so that it is difficult for other people to hear what you say [+ *obj*] She angrily *muttered* something about her bad luck. ▪ He *muttered* an apology. ▪ a *muttered* comment [*no obj*] She sat practicing her speech, *muttering* to herself.
2 [*no obj*] : to complain in a quiet or indirect way ▪ Some employees are *muttering* about the changes in the pension plan.
– **mutter** *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] ▪ She answered with/in a *mutter*. – **muttering** *noun, pl* **-ings** [*noncount*] There has been some *muttering* among the employees. [*count*] We've been hearing *mutterings* from some employees about the changes in the pension plan.

mut·ton /ˈmʌtn̩/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the meat of an adult sheep used as food ▪ a meal of *mutton* and potatoes ▪ a leg/shoulder of *mutton*
mutton dressed as lamb *Brit, informal + disapproving* : a woman who tries to make herself look younger by wearing clothes designed for young people

mut·ton·chops /ˈmʌtn̩ˌʧɑːps/ *noun* [*plural*] : hair that covers the sides of a man's face but not his chin — called also *muttonchop whiskers*, (*US*) *muttonchop sideburns*

mu·tu·al /ˈmjuːʧəwəl/ *adj*

1 : shared between two or more people or groups ▪ *Mutual* love and respect was the key to their successful marriage. ▪ The partnership was based on *mutual* admiration and understanding. ▪ *mutual* trust ▪ countries relying on *mutual* support during difficult times ✧ If a feeling ***is mutual***, then two people or groups feel the same way about each other. ▪ Her fans love her, and the feeling *is mutual*. [=and she loves her fans] ▪ Their attraction *was mutual*. [=they were both attracted to each other] ▪ "I'm pleased to meet you." "The feeling *is mutual*!" [=I'm also pleased to meet you]

2 *always used before a noun* : shared by two or more people or groups ▪ They met through a *mutual* friend. [=a person who was a friend of both of them] ▪ our *mutual* hobby of car racing ▪ The two countries have several *mutual* [=*joint*] interests. ▪ It was a *mutual* effort. ▪ We had a *mutual* agreement not to tell our secret.

– **mu·tu·al·i·ty** /ˌmjuːʧəˈwæləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* ▪ *mutuality* of interest

mutual fund *noun, pl* ~ **funds** [*count*] *US* : a type of investment in which the money of many people is used to buy stock from many different companies ▪ She invested her money in a *mutual fund*. — called also (*Brit*) *unit trust*

mu·tu·al·ly /ˈmjuːʧəwəli/ *adv* : in an equal way for each person or group involved ▪ We hope that these changes will be *mutually* beneficial. ▪ a *mutually* rewarding relationship ▪ *mutually* dependent countries [=countries that are equally dependent on each other] ▪ They loved and respected each other *mutually*.

mutually exclusive *adj* : related in such a way that each thing makes the other thing impossible : not able to be true at the same time or to exist together ▪ War and peace are *mutually exclusive*. [=war and peace cannot exist at the same time] ▪ *mutually exclusive* events — often used after *not* to describe things that can exist together or at the same time ▪ In a marriage, love and conflict are *not mutually exclusive*. [=both love and conflict can exist in a marriage at the same time]

muu·muu /ˈmuːˌmuː/ *noun, pl* **-muus** [*count*] : a Hawaiian dress that is usually long, loose-fitting, and decorated with bright colors — see color picture on page C16

Mu·zak /ˈmjuːˌzæk/ *trademark* — used for recorded music that is played in public buildings or rooms (such as stores or offices)

[1]muz·zle /ˈmʌzəl/ *noun, pl* **muz·zles** [*count*]

1 : the usually long nose and mouth of an animal (such as a dog, horse, or pig) : SNOUT — see picture at HORSE

2 : a covering for the mouth of a dog that stops it from biting people

3 : the hole at the end of a gun where the bullet comes out — see picture at GUN

[2]muzzle *verb* **muz·zles**; **muz·zled**; **muz·zling** [+ *obj*]

1 : to put a muzzle on (a dog) : to place a covering on (the mouth of a dog) to stop biting ▪ a dangerous dog that should be *muzzled*

2 : to prevent (a person or group) from speaking or writing in a free or normal way ▪ attempts by the government to *muzzle* the press ▪ The company has tried to *muzzle* its employees by forbidding them to speak to the press.

muz·zy /ˈmʌzi/ *adj* **muzz·i·er**; **-est** *Brit, informal*

1 : confused or unclear in the mind especially after drinking alcohol ▪ He stopped drinking when his head started getting *muzzy*. ▪ The medicine made her feel *muzzy* [=*dazed, groggy*] and tired.

2 : not clear or exact ▪ The story gets *muzzy* [=(*US*) *fuzzy*] in the middle of the book. ▪ *muzzy* conclusions ▪ *muzzy* [=*fuzzy, blurry*] photographs

– **muz·zi·ly** /ˈmʌzəli/ *adv* – **muz·zi·ness** /ˈmʌzinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

my /ˈmaɪ/ *adj, possessive form of* I

1 *always used before a noun* : relating to or belonging to me ▪ Welcome to *my* home. ▪ I enjoy *my* job very much. ▪ *My* favorite TV show was on last night. ▪ *My* name is John. ▪ When I woke up this morning, *my* head ached and *my* throat was sore. ▪ *My* wife and I both love to dance. : made or done by me ▪ I always keep *my* promises. ▪ It was *my* fault that we lost the game.

2 *always used before a noun* — used to express affection for someone you are talking to ▪ How are you, *my* friend? ▪ Come with me, *my* love. ▪ Sleep well, *my* child.

3 *informal* — used by itself and in phrases to express surprise, excitement, or fear ▪ Oh *my*, what a wonderful gift! ▪ Oh, ***my goodness***. What happened to you? ▪ Oh ***my lord***, look at the time! ▪ ***My God***, you must be joking!

my·al·gic en·ceph·a·lo·my·eli·tis /maɪˈældʒɪkɪnˌsɛfəloʊˌmajəˈlaɪtəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit, medical* : CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME

my·nah *or* **my·na** /ˈmaɪnə/ *noun, pl* **-nahs** *or* **-nas** [*count*] : a black bird from Asia that is often kept as a pet and trained to copy the sounds of words — called also *mynah bird*

my·o·pia /maɪˈoʊpijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a condition of the eye that makes it difficult to see objects that are far away : NEARSIGHTEDNESS ▪ She wears eyeglasses to correct her *myopia*. — often used figuratively ▪ cultural *myopia* [=an inability to see what is good in other cultures] ▪ religious and moral *myopia*

my·o·pic /maɪˈɑːpɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 *medical* : not able to clearly see objects that are far away : affected with myopia : NEARSIGHTED ▪ *myopic* vision

2 *disapproving* : only thinking or caring about things that are happening now or that relate to a particular group rather than things that are in the future or that relate to many people ▪ *myopic* politicians ▪ He has criticized the government's *myopic* [=*shortsighted*] diplomatic policies. ▪ a *myopic* view of the world

[1]myr·i·ad /ˈmirijəd/ *noun, pl* **-ads** [*count*] *somewhat formal* : a very large number *of* things ▪ The car comes in a *myriad of* colors. [=in many colors] ▪ There are a *myriad of* possibilities. — often plural ▪ *myriads of* stars/insects

[2]myriad *adj, somewhat formal* : very many ▪ The old system's problems were *myriad*. — usually used before a noun ▪ *myriad* problems ▪ Today we remember the *myriad* ways she helped others in her lifetime.

myrrh /ˈmɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a sticky brown substance that comes from trees, that has a sweet smell, and that is used in products that give the air or people's bodies a pleasing smell

myr·tle /ˈmɚtl/ *noun, pl* **myr·tles** [*count*] : a type of small tree that has sweet-smelling white or pink flowers and black berries

my·self /maɪˈsɛlf/ *pronoun*

1 : the person who is speaking or writing: **a** — used as the object of a verb or preposition to refer to yourself after you have already been mentioned ▪ I accidentally cut *myself* while cooking. ▪ I'm going to get *myself* a new car. ▪ I bought *myself* a new suit. ▪ I consider *myself* to be a pretty good swimmer. ▪ I had to ask *myself* if this was what I truly wanted. ▪ I reminded *myself* that this is just a game. ▪ I told a bad joke and made *myself* look foolish. ▪ I am proud of *myself* for finishing college. ▪ I could no longer keep the secret to *myself*. ▪ I'm doing this for *myself*. [=for my own benefit] ▪ I said to *myself*, "Here's a man who knows what he's doing." ▪ I had the house (all) ***to myself***. [=I was alone in the house] ▪ I wanted to see it ***for myself***. [=to see it rather than have someone tell me about it, describe it to me, etc.] **b** — used for emphasis to refer again to yourself after you have already been mentioned ▪ I told him so *myself*. ▪ If you won't go, then I'll go *myself*. ▪ I *myself* have never been to Italy. ▪ I *myself* have experienced the same thing.

2 : my normal or healthy self ▪ I was nervous and uncomfortable and just didn't feel (like) *myself*. ▪ I'm not feeling (like) *myself* today. I think I may be coming down with a cold. ▪ I'm not *myself* today. I just don't feel right. ▪ I find it hard to ***be myself*** [=to relax and behave in my usual way] when I'm with people I don't know well.

by myself **1** : without any help from other people ▪ I can't do it (all) *by myself*. ▪ It's hard to believe that I started this company *by myself* 20 years ago. **2** : with nobody else : ALONE ▪ I went to movies *by myself*. ▪ I had to play in my room (all) *by myself*.

mys·te·ri·ous /mɪˈstirijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : strange, unknown, or difficult to understand ▪ the *mysterious* ways of nature ▪ We heard a *mysterious* noise outside our tent. ▪ He died under *mysterious* circumstances. ▪ A *mysterious* illness has been spreading through the city. ▪ There's something *mysterious* about that old woman. ▪ Her behavior was very *mysterious*. ✧ *Mysterious* people are often interesting because many things are not known about them. ▪ A *mysterious* stranger came to our door. ▪ the movie's handsome and *mysterious* main character

be mysterious : to talk or behave in a way that makes other people feel that you must have a secret ▪ What are you *being* so *mysterious* about?

– **mys·te·ri·ous·ly** *adv* ▪ He died *mysteriously* at the age of 32. ▪ She smiled *mysteriously*.

mys·tery /ˈmɪstəri/ *noun, pl* **-ter·ies**

1 [*count*] : something that is not known ▪ Where they went is a *mystery*. [=no one knows where they went] ▪ The girl's name remains a *mystery*. : something that is difficult to understand or explain ▪ The *mystery* surrounding/of her disappearance has never been solved. ▪ His success is something of a *mystery*. = His success is a bit of a *mystery*. ▪ The cause of the disease remains a *mystery* to scientists. ▪ I don't know how he did it. It's a *mystery* to me!

2 [*noncount*] : the quality of being difficult to understand or explain : the quality of being mysterious ▪ The experiment is cloaked/shrouded/veiled in *mystery*. ▪ There is an air of *mystery* surrounding her. = She is a woman of *mystery*. ▪ There's no *mystery* (to/as to/about) why we're here. = It's no *mystery* why we're here. [=we know why we are here]

3 [*count*] : a religious event or idea that cannot be fully understood or explained ▪ the *mystery* of creation

4 [*count*] : a book, play, or movie that describes a crime and the process of solving it ▪ She has written many adventure novels and murder *mysteries*. — often used before another noun ▪ *mystery* novels/stories ▪ She's a *mystery* writer.

5 [*count*] : someone or something whose identity has been kept secret especially in order to create interest or excitement — usually used before another noun ▪ We'll reveal the identity of today's *mystery* guest after these commercials. ▪ You'll find a *mystery* prize in each box.

mystery play *noun, pl* ~ **plays** [*count*] : a religious play in the Middle Ages based on a story from the Bible (such as the creation of the world or the birth of Jesus Christ)

[1]mys·tic /ˈmɪstɪk/ *noun, pl* **-tics** [*count*] : a person who tries to gain religious or spiritual knowledge through prayer and deep thought : someone who practices mysticism

[2]mystic *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : MYSTICAL ▪ She had a *mystic* vision while praying. ▪ a *mystic* journey

mys·ti·cal /ˈmɪstɪkəl/ *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a spiritual meaning that is difficult to see or understand ▪ He has a *mystical* [*mystic*] union/relationship with God. ▪ She says that the symbol has *mystical* powers. ▪ the deep, almost *mystical* quality of her poetry

2 : of or relating to mystics or mysticism : resulting from prayer or deep thought ▪ a *mystical* experience ▪ a *mystical* journey in search of God ▪ *mystical* knowledge of the spirit world

– **mys·ti·cal·ly** /ˈmɪstɪkli/ *adv* ▪ *mystically* united with God

mys·ti·cism /ˈmɪstəˌsɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a religious practice based on the belief that knowledge of spiritual truth can be gained by praying or thinking deeply ▪ Jewish, Christian, and Islamic *mysticism* ▪ a student of Eastern *mysticism*

mys·ti·fy /ˈmɪstəˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy·ing** [+ *obj*] : to confuse (someone) completely ▪ The cause of the disease *mystified* doctors for many years. ▪ Her strange behavior has *mystified* [=*baffled*] her friends and family. ▪ I was thoroughly *mystified* by his reaction. [=I could not understand his reaction] ▪ The magician has been *mystifying* his audiences for years with his amazing tricks.

– **mys·ti·fi·ca·tion** /ˌmɪstəfəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

– **mystifying** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ her *mystifying* behavior – **mys·ti·fy·ing·ly** *adv*

mys·tique /mɪˈsti:k/ *noun* [*singular*] : a special quality that makes a person or thing interesting or exciting ▪ There's a certain *mystique* to/about people who fight fires. ▪ No one has been able to copy the legendary singer's *mystique*. ▪ the *mystique* of mountain climbing

myth /ˈmɪθ/ *noun, pl* **myths**

1 : an idea or story that is believed by many people but that is not true [*count*] It's an enduring/persistent *myth* that money brings happiness. ▪ The book dispels/refutes/debunks many *myths* about early American history. [=shows that many beliefs about early American history are wrong] ▪ I don't believe the *myths* and legends about/surrounding this forest. [*noncount*] Contrary to popular *myth*, no monster lives in this lake.

2 a [*count*] : a story that was told in an ancient culture to explain a practice, belief, or natural occurrence ▪ creation *myths* [=stories about how people and the world were first created] **b** [*noncount*] : such stories as a group ▪ a student of Greek *myth* [=*mythology*]

myth·ic /ˈmɪθɪk/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to a myth ▪ a *mythic* story : described in a myth ▪ a *mythic* [=(more commonly) *mythical*] hero

2 : suitable to a myth : very famous or important ▪ He's reached the end of a *mythic* [=*legendary*] career. ▪ She's one of the *mythic* figures in ice-skating. ▪ His fame has grown to ***mythic proportions***.

myth·i·cal /ˈmɪθɪkəl/ *adj*

1 : based on or described in a myth ▪ Hercules was a *mythical* hero who was half man and half god. ▪ gods fighting in a *mythical* battle in the sky ▪ a *mythical* beast/creature

2 : existing only in the imagination : IMAGINARY ▪ The sportswriters picked a *mythical* all-star team. ▪ The benefits of the new policy proved to be *mythical*.

– **myth·i·cal·ly** /ˈmɪθɪkli/ *adv* ▪ *mythically* heroic characters of the past

my·thol·o·gize *also Brit* **my·thol·o·gise** /mɪˈθɑ:ləˌʤaɪz/ *verb* **-giz·es**; **-gized**; **-giz·ing** [+ *obj*] : to talk about or describe (someone or something) as a subject that deserves to be told about in a myth or legend : to make (someone or something) seem great or heroic ▪ a politician who has been *mythologized* by his supporters ▪ *mythologize* the past

my·thol·o·gy /mɪˈθɑ:ləʤi/ *noun, pl* **-gies**

1 : the myths of a particular group or culture [*noncount*] We have been studying ancient Greek *mythology*. [*count*] We compared the two cultures' *mythologies*.

2 : ideas that are believed by many people but that are not true [*noncount*] Contrary to popular *mythology* [=*myth*], he did not actually discover the cause of the disease by himself. [*singular*] There is a popular *mythology* that he discovered the cause of the disease by himself.

– **myth·o·log·i·cal** /ˌmɪθəˈlɑ:ʤɪkəl/ *adj* ▪ *mythological* heroes ▪ a *mythological* story

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[1]n *or* **N** /ˈɛn/ *noun, pl* **n's** *or* **ns** *or* **N's** *or* **Ns** /ˈɛnz/

1 : the 14th letter of the English alphabet [*count*] a word that starts with an *n* [*noncount*] a word that starts with *n*

2 [*noncount*] *mathematics* : a number that is part of an equation and that has a value that is not stated ▪ What is the value of *n* in the equation 5n + 2 = 37?

[2]n *abbr* noun

'n' *also* **'n** /ən, ŋ/ *conj* : AND ▪ rock *'n'* roll

N *abbr* north, northern

NA *abbr* **1** North America **2** not applicable — often written as *N/A* **3** not available — often written as *N/A*

NAACP *abbr* National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ✧ The *NAACP* is an American organization that works to protect the rights of African-Americans.

naan *also* **nan** /ˈnɑ:n/ *noun* [*count, noncount*] : an Indian bread that is round, flat, and soft

nab /ˈnæb/ *verb* **nabs**; **nabbed**; **nab·bing** [+ *obj*] *informal*

1 : to catch and stop or arrest (someone) ▪ The police *nabbed* [=(more formally) *apprehended*] the two men in their hideout. ▪ *nabbing* criminals ▪ The boss *nabbed* [=*caught*] me at the coffee machine and asked me to stay late.

2 : to take or get (something) quickly and often in a way that is clever or rude ▪ I was thinking about *nabbing* [=*grabbing, snatching*] that last piece of pizza. ▪ We *nabbed* seats in the front row of the theater.

na·bob /ˈneɪˌbɑ:b/ *noun, pl* **-bobs** [*count*] *informal* : a very rich or important person ▪ corporate *nabobs*

na•chos /ˈnɑːˌʧoʊz/ *noun* [*plural*] : tortilla chips that are covered with warm melted cheese and often with hot peppers, beans, salsa, etc.

na•da /ˈnɑːdə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : ¹NOTHING 1 ▪ It won't cost you anything—zero, nothing, *nada*.

na•dir /ˈneɪˌdiɚ/ *noun* [*singular*] *formal* : the worst or lowest point of something ▪ The relationship between the two countries reached a/its *nadir* in the 1920s. — opposite ZENITH

naff /ˈnæf/ *adj* **naff•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *Brit slang* : of low quality especially in a way that shows a lack of style or taste ▪ The film was a bit *naff*.

¹nag /ˈnæg/ *verb* **nags**; **nagged**; **nag•ging**

1 a : to annoy (someone) by often complaining about his or her behavior, appearance, etc. [+ *obj*] — + *about* ▪ My wife *nags* me *about* my busy work schedule. ▪ Mom's always *nagging* me *about* my hair. [*no obj*] All you ever do is *nag*. **b** : to annoy (someone) with repeated questions, requests, or orders [+ *obj*] My parents are always *nagging* me to clean my room. ▪ He kept *nagging* her until she agreed to see the movie. [*no obj*] Quit *nagging*! I already said I'm not going.

2 : to cause (someone) to feel annoyed or worried for a long period of time [+ *obj*] She's still *nagged* [=*bothered*] by the thought that she could have done better. [*no obj*] — often + *at* ▪ The problem has been *nagging at* me for weeks.

– **nagging** /ˈnægɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ A few *nagging* questions/problems remain. ▪ I have this *nagging* doubt/feeling/fear/suspicion that our troubles aren't over yet. ▪ a *nagging* headache/cough/pain ▪ *nagging* injuries that just won't heal

²nag *noun, pl* **nags** [*count*] *informal* : a person who nags or complains too often ▪ His wife's an awful *nag*. — compare ³NAG

³nag *noun, pl* **nags** [*count*] : a horse that is old and usually in bad condition — compare ²NAG

nah /ˈnæ, ˈnæə, ˈnɑː/ *adv, informal* : ¹NO ✧ *Nah* is used in very informal spoken English. ▪ "Do you want to come with us?" "*Nah*, I've got too much work to do."

¹nail /ˈneɪl/ *noun, pl* **nails** [*count*]

1 : a long, thin piece of metal that is sharp at one end and flat at the other end and that is used chiefly to attach things to wood ▪ a hammer and some *nails* — see picture at CARPENTRY; compare ¹SCREW 1

2 : the hard covering at the end of a finger or toe : a fingernail or toenail ▪ I get my *nails* done at the beauty salon every other week. ▪ a pair of *nail* clippers — see also HANGNAIL

a nail in the/someone's coffin : something that makes it more likely that someone or something will fail, be destroyed, etc. ▪ Every mistake is one more *nail in the coffin* of his professional baseball career. ▪ The lawyers put another *nail in her coffin* today.

(as) hard/tough as nails *of a person* : very tough ▪ When she's negotiating a contract, she can be *as tough as nails*.

hit the nail on the head see ¹HIT

tooth and nail see TOOTH

²nail *verb* **nails**; **nailed**; **nail•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *always followed by an adverb, adjective, or preposition* : to attach (something) with a nail ▪ *Nail* the picture to the wall. ▪ *nailing* [=*hammering*] the boards together ▪ All the doors were *nailed* shut. ▪ The desks and chairs had been *nailed* (down) to the floor.

2 *informal* **a** : to catch (someone) doing something illegal or wrong ▪ He got *nailed* by his parents while trying to sneak out of the house. **b** : to arrest or punish (someone) for doing something that is illegal or wrong ▪ He got *nailed* for not paying his taxes. ▪ The FBI has *nailed* the hackers.

3 *informal* : to hit (someone or something) forcefully ▪ Someone *nailed* [=*whacked*] him on the head with a rock.

4 *US, informal* : to make or do (something) in a perfect or impressive way ▪ She *nailed* a three-point shot in the final seconds of the game. ▪ You really *nailed* that song. It sounded great!

nail down [*phrasal verb*] ***nail (something) down*** *or* ***nail down (something)*** **1** : to make (something, such as a victory) certain to happen ▪ They need to score another touchdown to *nail down* the victory. **2** : to find out or identify (something) exactly ▪ Her doctors haven't yet been able to *nail down* a diagnosis. ▪ They're trying to *nail down* the cause of our network problems. **3** : to make (something) definite or final ▪ *nail down* a decision

nail–bit•er /ˈneɪlˌbaɪtɚ/ *noun* [*singular*] : something (such as a game or movie) that causes people to feel nervous because the ending is not known until the final moment ▪ This election's going to be a real *nail-biter*.

– **nail–bit•ing** /ˈneɪlˌbaɪtɪŋ/ *adj* ▪ The election is heading for a *nail-biting* finish.

nail file *noun, pl* ~ **files** [*count*] : a small, flat piece of metal or cardboard that has a rough surface and that is used for shaping your fingernails — see picture at GROOMING

nail polish *noun* [*noncount*] : a liquid that is used to paint fingernails and toenails ▪ red *nail polish* ▪ *nail polish* remover — called also (*Brit*) *nail varnish*; see picture at GROOMING

na•ive *or* **na•ïve** /nɑˈiːv, naɪˈiːv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing a lack of experience or knowledge : innocent or simple ▪ a *naive* belief that all people are good ▪ a *naive* view of the world ▪ She asked a lot of *naive* questions. ▪ He's politically *naive*. = He's *naive* about the nature of politics. ▪ I was young and *naive* at the time, and I didn't think anything bad could happen to me. ▪ The plan seems a little *naive*. ▪ If you're *naive* enough to believe him, you'll believe anyone. ▪ We're not *naive* to the fact [=we're not unaware of the fact] that there are problems with the system.

– **na•ive•ly** *or* **na•ïve•ly** *adv* ▪ I *naively* believed that we could fix the problem. – **na•ïve•té** *also* **na•ive•te** *or* **na•ive•té** /nɑˌiːvˈteɪ, naɪˌiːvˈteɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ political *naïveté* – **na•ive•ty** *also* **na•ïve•ty** /nɑˈiːvəti, naɪˈiːvəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly Brit* ▪ political *naïvety*

na•ked /ˈneɪkəd/ *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not wearing any clothes : not covered by clothing ▪ a *naked* [=*nude*] man ▪ the *naked* human body ▪ her *naked* [=(more commonly) *bare*] shoulders ▪ He was *naked* from the waist up. ▪ The prisoners were stripped *naked*. [=all of their clothes were taken off] ▪ She was ***half naked*** [=partly dressed] when the doorbell rang. ▪ He's ***stark naked***. [=he's completely naked]

2 : not having a usual covering ▪ The trees are still *naked* [=(more commonly) *bare*], but their leaves will return soon. ▪ a *naked* [=*uncovered*] lightbulb

3 : not having any decorations ▪ the room's *naked* [=*bare, plain*] walls

4 *always used before a noun* **a** : not hidden or changed in any way : stated in a very clear and direct way ▪ These are the *naked* facts of the case. ▪ Tell me everything. I want ***the naked truth***. [=the complete truth, the whole story] **b** : completely obvious ▪ an act of *naked* aggression

5 *always used before a noun* : without the use of a telescope, microscope, etc. ▪ distant stars and planets that cannot be seen with ***the naked eye*** ▪ Though extremely small, this insect is visible to *the naked eye*.

– **na•ked•ly** *adv* ▪ She's the most *nakedly* ambitious person I know. – **na•ked•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The actor was uncomfortable with his *nakedness*. [=the fact that he was naked]

nam•by–pam•by /ˌnæmbiˈpæmbi/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* + *disapproving* : too weak or gentle : not strong or strict enough ▪ *namby-pamby* politicians ▪ *namby-pamby* treatment of criminals

¹name /ˈneɪm/ *noun, pl* **names** [*count*]

1 : a word or phrase that refers to or that can refer to a specific person ▪ "What's his (first) *name*?" "His *name* is Jacob." ▪ I took my husband's (last) *name* when we got married. ▪ Please write/sign your *name* on this line. ▪ State your *name* and occupation. ▪ I refused to give/tell them my *name*. ▪ She has one of the most famous *names* [=she is one of the most famous people] in show business. ▪ Can you give me the *name* of a good dentist? [=do you know a good dentist that I could use?] ▪ Mark Twain's real *name* was Samuel Clemens. ▪ She registered at the hotel under/using a false/assumed *name*. ▪ Samuel Clemens wrote under the *name* (of) Mark Twain. ▪ My ***full name*** is Susan Elaine Smith. ▪ Her name is Susan, but she goes ***by the name (of)*** Sue. [=people call her Sue] ▪ Do you know a man ***by the name of*** [=do you know a man named] James Smith? ▪ She now owns several restaurants that ***bear her name***. [=that are named after her] ▪ Can I ***put your name down*** for a donation? [=can I write down your name on the list of people who are giving a donation?; would you like to make a donation?] — see also CHRISTIAN NAME, FAMILY NAME, FIRST NAME, FORENAME, GIVEN NAME, LAST NAME, MAIDEN NAME, MARRIED NAME, MIDDLE NAME, NICKNAME, PEN NAME, PET NAME, STAGE NAME, SURNAME

2 a : a word or phrase that refers to a specific place or thing ▪ We had to memorize the *names* of all the countries in Africa. ▪ "What's your dog's *name*?" "His *name* is Sandy." ▪ What was the *name* [=*title*] of that movie we saw last night? ▪ This

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is his song "Loving You" from the album of the same *name*. ▪ The ship's *name* was "Titanic." ▪ The band ***takes/gets its name from*** [=it is named after] its hometown. ▪ The company ***gives/lends its name*** to one of the biggest golf tournaments in the country. [=the golf tournament is named after the company] **b :** a word or phrase that refers to a type or group of things ▪ Psychologists have a *name* for this kind of behavior. ▪ Is there a *name* for the part of the leg behind the knee? ▪ The cougar is also known by the *names* "puma" and "mountain lion." ▪ The plant's ***botanical/scientific name*** is *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*, but we know it by its ***common name*** "daisy." ▪ ***True to their name***, killer bees have been known to kill people. = ***As their name implies/suggests***, killer bees really do kill. = Killer bees really ***live up to their name***. = Killer bees are known to kill people, ***hence the name***. — see also BRAND NAME, CODE NAME, PLACE NAME, PROPER NAME, TRADE NAME

3 : the general opinion that most people have about someone or something ▪ A few dishonest players have given the sport a ***bad name***. [=they have made people think badly about the sport] ▪ I won't let you ruin our family's ***good name***. [=good reputation] ▪ He's still trying to ***clear his name***. [=to prove that he is not guilty of a crime]

4 : a famous person or thing ▪ He's one of the biggest *names* in music. ▪ Our agency has represented some of the most famous *names* in the business. ▪ The following year, she took the role that would make her a ***household name***. [=a very well-known person] — see also BIG NAME, NAME-DROPPING, NO-NAME

5 : a word or phrase that is used to describe and insult someone ▪ a bad/dirty *name* — usually plural ▪ Sticks and stones may break my bones but *names* will never hurt me! ▪ "You're such a stupid jerk!" "Hey, don't ***call me names***!" ▪ A bully at school was *calling her names*. — see also NAME-CALLING

by name **:** using a name : by saying the name of someone or something ▪ He never mentioned her *by name* [=he never said her name], but we all knew who he was talking about. ▪ The victim was able to identify his attacker *by name*. [=he knew the name of the person who attacked him] ▪ We've had people come in to the store and ask for it *by name*.

drag someone's name through the mud see ¹DRAG

in all/everything but name **:** not in an official way but in every other way ▪ Military governors ruled the country *in all but name* for many years. ▪ Their marriage was over *in all but name* five years ago.

in name only *also* ***in name*** — used to describe a person or thing that does not have the qualities that its name suggests ▪ For many years, the Emperor was the ruler *in name only*. = The Emperor ruled *in name* but not in fact. ▪ She's my boss *in name only*. We're really more like partners. ▪ a friend *in name only*

in someone's/something's name *or* ***in the name of someone/something*** **1 a** — used to say that something officially or legally belongs to a specified person ▪ We both own the house, but the car is *in my name*. ▪ The business is registered *in her husband's name* for tax purposes. **b** — used to say that something has or uses the name of a specified person ▪ Our reservation at the restaurant is *in my name*. **2** — used to say that something is done with the authority of a specified person or thing ▪ The leader refused to allow such violent acts to be done *in his name*. ▪ Stop *in the name of* the law! **3** — used to say that something is given as the official reason for doing something ▪ These laws were passed *in the name of* national security. ▪ They're tearing down historic buildings *in the name of* progress!

know (someone) by name **1 :** to know a person well enough to know the person's name ▪ She *knows* all of her customers *by name*. ▪ I took her to a restaurant where the owner *knows* me *by name*. ▪ The police *know* him *by name*. **2 :** to know a person's name only ▪ He said he only *knew* her *by name* and didn't know much more about her.

make your name *or* ***make a name for yourself*** **:** to become well-known or famous ▪ She *made her name* in politics as a powerful public speaker. ▪ He has *made* quite *a name for himself* as a golfer. ▪ She is *making a name for herself* in the art world.

put a name to (someone or something) **:** to think of and say the name of (someone or something) ▪ Can you *put a name to* the face in this photograph? ▪ I couldn't *put a name to* the emotion I was feeling.

take someone's name in vain see VAIN

the name of the game *informal* **:** the basic goal or purpose of an activity ▪ When all is said and done, in business, profit is *the name of the game*. ▪ *The name of the game* was winning by any means necessary.

to your name **:** belonging to you ▪ I haven't a dollar/dime/penny *to my name*. [=I have no money] ▪ She has more than 20 novels *to her name*. [=she has written more than 20 novels] ▪ a band with three hit songs *to their name*

under someone's/something's name *or* ***under the name (of) someone/something*** **1** — used to say that something officially or legally belongs to a specified person ▪ We both own the house, but the car is *under my name*. ▪ The business is registered *under her husband's name* for tax purposes. **2** — used to say that something has or uses the name of a specified person ▪ We have dinner reservations *under the name of* Jones.

with someone's name on it *informal* **:** intended for someone ▪ There's a piece of cake over there *with your name on it*. [=you should go get that piece of cake] ▪ He told me he had a bullet *with my name on it*. [=he was going to shoot me]

your name is mud see MUD

²name *verb* **names; named; nam·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to give a name to (someone or something) ▪ "What are you going to *name* your new dog?" "I think I'll *name* him Sandy." ▪ The aptly *named* HMS "Victorious" helped the British Royal Navy win an important victory. ▪ A man *named* James Smith is on the phone. ▪ We *named* our daughter "Mary" in honor of her grandmother. ▪ Alzheimer's disease was ***named after*** Dr. Alois Alzheimer. = (*US*) It was ***named for*** Dr. Alois Alzheimer.

2 : to say the name of (someone or something) ▪ Can you *name* the person who attacked you? ▪ All of the authors *named* above were influenced by his work. ▪ "How many of the 50 states of the U.S. can you *name*?" "Well, there's New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, ***to name (but/just/only) a few***."

3 : to choose (someone) to be (something) ▪ The company president *named* [=*appointed*] his son (as) his successor. ▪ She was *named* to replace him as the company's vice president. ▪ She has been *named* (as) the winner of the competition. ▪ The magazine *named* him (as) the best artist of the year.

4 : to decide on or choose (something) ▪ NASA has not yet *named* [=*set*] the date for the shuttle launch. ▪ We've decided to get married, but we haven't *named* the day (of the wedding) yet.

name names **:** to say the names of people who were involved in something ▪ He said he knew who did it, but he wouldn't *name names*.

name your price **:** to say how much you want to pay for something or how much you want to sell something for ▪ Customers can *name their price*. ▪ People selling homes on the beach can basically *name their price*. [=they can sell their homes for any amount of money they want]

you name it *informal* **:** anything you could say or think of ▪ *You name it*, we sell it! ▪ I like all kinds of music: rock, blues, reggae, classical—*you name it*!

³name *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US* **:** having a well-known name and good reputation ▪ We got a couple of *name* [=*big-name*] bands for the show. ▪ books by *name* authors ▪ *name* players

name brand *noun, pl* **~ brands** [*count*] **:** a product that is made by a well-known company ▪ clothing stores that sell *name brands* at low prices — compare BRAND NAME, STORE BRAND

– name–brand *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *name-brand* clothing

name–call·ing /ˈneɪmˌkɑːlɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** the act of using offensive names to insult someone ▪ "That man is an arrogant, immoral fool!" "I understand your anger, but *name-calling* won't get you anywhere." ▪ Don't resort to *name-calling*. Let's talk about the real issues.

name–drop·ping /ˈneɪmˌdrɑːpɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** the act of trying to impress someone by saying the names of well-known people that you know or have met ▪ There's an excessive amount of *name-dropping* in his autobiography.

– name–drop /ˈneɪmˌdrɑːp/ *verb* **-drops; -dropped; -drop·ping** [*no obj*] ▪ He kept *name-dropping* [=*dropping names*] but no one was impressed. **– name–drop·per** /ˈneɪmˌdrɑːpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-pers** [*count*]

name·less /ˈneɪmləs/ *adj*

1 : having a name that is not known or told ▪ the *nameless* [=*anonymous, unknown*] author of the editorial ▪ She left the

hotel with a *nameless* man in a black jacket. ▪ a *nameless* informant ▪ The source for my story prefers to remain *nameless*. ▪ A top government official, ***who shall remain nameless***, has expressed concern about the decision.

2 : not having a name ▪ a *nameless* [=*unnamed*] stream in the woods ▪ a *nameless* baby

3 : not marked with a name ▪ The men were buried there in *nameless* graves.

4 a : not able to be identified by name ▪ There was a strange, *nameless* odor coming from the basement. ▪ *nameless* fears and worries **b** : too bad to talk about ▪ the *nameless* horrors of war

name•ly /'neɪmli/ *adv* — used when giving exact information about something you have already mentioned ▪ They brought lunch, *namely* sandwiches, chips, and soda. ▪ The disease can be prevented, *namely* by exercising, eating right, and not smoking. ▪ I have a question; *namely*, should we sell the property or not? ▪ She made a suggestion, *namely* that the student not be admitted.

name•plate /'neɪmˌpleɪt/ *noun, pl* **-plates** [*count*] : a metal or plastic sign that is attached to a door or wall and that shows the name of the person, group, or company that lives or works there

name•sake /'neɪmˌseɪk/ *noun, pl* **-sakes** [*count*] : someone or something that has the same name as another person or thing ▪ How much did President George Bush influence his son and *namesake* George W. Bush?

name tag *noun, pl* **~ tags** [*count*] : a piece of paper, cloth, plastic, or metal that has a person's name written on it and that is attached to the person's clothing ▪ She handed out *name tags* for people to wear at the conference. ▪ I didn't notice the supervisor's *name tag* on his uniform.

[1]nan /'næn/ *noun, pl* **nans** [*count*] *Brit* : NANA

[2]nan *variant spelling of* NAAN

nana *also Brit* **nan•na** /'nænə/ *noun, pl* **nan•as** [*count*] : GRANDMOTHER — used especially by young children ▪ Are we going to visit *nana* today?

nan•ny /'næni/ *noun, pl* **-nies** [*count*]

1 : a woman who is paid to care for a young child usually in the child's home ▪ When I was growing up, I had a *nanny*.

2 *Brit* : GRANDMOTHER

nanny goat *noun, pl* **~ goats** [*count*] : a female goat — compare BILLY GOAT

nano- *combining form, technical* : one billionth part of something ▪ *nano*second

nano•sec•ond /'nænəˌsɛkənd/ *noun, pl* **-onds** [*count*]

1 *technical* : one billionth of a second ▪ It happens in less than a *nanosecond*.

2 : a very short time

nano•tech•nol•o•gy /ˌnænoʊtɛk'nɑːlədʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : the science of working with atoms and molecules to build devices (such as robots) that are extremely small

[1]nap /'næp/ *noun, pl* **naps** [*count*] : a short period of sleep especially during the day ▪ She awoke from her *nap* rested and refreshed. ▪ You look like you could use a *nap*. ▪ He put the baby down for a *nap*. ▪ Grandma ***takes a nap*** every afternoon. — compare [3]NAP

[2]nap *verb* **naps; napped; nap•ping** [*no obj*]

1 : to sleep for a short period of time especially during the day ▪ He's *napping* [=*dozing*] on the couch.

2 : to be in a state in which you are not prepared to deal with something because you were not paying attention ▪ The goalie had to be *napping* when that ball got by him. ▪ When the problem appeared again, the government was ***caught napping***. [=the government was not prepared to deal with it]

[3]nap *noun, pl* **naps** [*count*] : a soft layer of threads on the surface of a piece of cloth, a carpet, etc. — compare [1]NAP

na•palm /'neɪˌpɑːm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a thick substance that contains gasoline and that is used in bombs that cause a destructive fire over a wide area

nape /'neɪp/ *noun* [*singular*] : the back of the neck ▪ Her hair was tied back at the *nape* of her neck.

nap•kin /'næpkən/ *noun, pl* **-kins** [*count*] : a small piece of cloth or paper used during a meal to clean your lips and fingers and to protect your clothes — called also (*Brit*) *serviette*; see picture at PLACE SETTING; see also SANITARY NAPKIN

[1]nap•py /'næpi/ *adj* **nap•pi•er; -est** *US, informal, of hair* : having many tight bends or curls ▪ short *nappy* [=*kinky*] hair

[2]nappy *noun, pl* **-pies** [*count*] *Brit* : [1]DIAPER

nappy rash *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : DIAPER RASH

narc *also* **nark** /'nɑːrk/ *noun, pl* **narcs** *also* **narks** [*count*] *US, informal* : a person (such as a government agent) who tries to catch criminals who buy and sell illegal drugs

nar•cis•sis•tic /ˌnɑːrsə'sɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* + *disapproving* : loving and admiring yourself and especially your appearance too much ▪ a *narcissistic* young actor
— **nar•cis•sism** /'nɑːrsəˌsɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the actor's *narcissism*

nar•cis•sus /nɑːr'sɪsəs/ *noun, pl* **nar•cis•si** /nɑːr'sɪˌsaɪ/ *or* **narcissus** *or* **nar•cis•sus•es** [*count*] : DAFFODIL

nar•co•lep•sy /'nɑːrkəˌlɛpsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a medical condition in which someone suddenly falls into a deep sleep while talking, working, etc.

nar•cot•ic /nɑːr'kɑːtɪk/ *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*]

1 : a drug (such as cocaine, heroin, or marijuana) that affects the brain and that is usually dangerous and illegal ▪ an addictive *narcotic* — often plural ▪ He was arrested for selling *narcotics*. ▪ *narcotics* agents/detectives ▪ *narcotics* dealers/traffickers [=people who sell narcotics]

2 *medical* : a drug that is given to people in small amounts to make them sleep or feel less pain ▪ a mild *narcotic*
— **narcotic** *adj* ▪ *narcotic* addiction ▪ *narcotic* drugs ▪ The drug has a mild *narcotic* effect. [=the drug makes you feel slightly sleepy]

nar•rate /'neˌreɪt, *Brit* nə'reɪt/ *verb* **-rates; -rat•ed; -rating** [+ *obj*]

1 : to tell (a story) ▪ The author *narrates* her story in great detail.

2 : to say the words that are heard as part of (a movie, television show, etc.) and that describe what is being seen : to do the narration for (something) ▪ Who *narrated* that film? ▪ a documentary *narrated* by a famous actor
— **nar•ra•tor** /'neˌreɪtɚ, *Brit* nə'reɪtə/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ The *narrator* of the story is a ten-year-old child.

nar•ra•tion /næ'reɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 *somewhat formal* : the act or process of telling a story or describing what happens [*noncount*] the *narration* of events ▪ The novel uses first-person *narration*. [*count*] first-person *narrations*

2 : words that are heard as part of a movie, television show, etc., and that describe what is being seen [*noncount*] They got a famous actor to do the *narration* for the documentary. [*count*] an actor who does *narrations* for documentaries

[1]nar•ra•tive /'nerətɪv/ *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*] *formal* : a story that is told or written ▪ He is writing a detailed *narrative* of his life on the island. ▪ People have questioned the accuracy of his *narrative*. ▪ fictional *narratives*

[2]narrative *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : of or relating to the process of telling a story ▪ her *narrative* style/technique [=the way she tells a story]

2 : having the form of a story ▪ a *narrative* poem

[1]nar•row /'neroʊ/ *adj* **nar•row•er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*]

1 : long and not wide : small from one side to the other side ▪ a long, *narrow* table ▪ *narrow* hallways/passageways ▪ The city's ancient streets are too *narrow* for buses. ▪ The sofa isn't *narrow* enough [=it is too wide] to fit through the door. ▪ a *narrow* path ▪ We crossed at the *narrowest* part of the river. ▪ His shoulders are very *narrow*. — opposite BROAD, WIDE

2 : including or involving a small number of things or people : limited in range or amount ▪ within the *narrow* limits allowed by law ▪ They offer a *narrow* range/choice of flavors: chocolate, strawberry, and vanilla. ▪ the study's *narrow* focus on 30-year-old men ▪ The study was *narrow* in scope. ▪ a *narrow* view/perspective of politics — opposite BROAD, WIDE

3 : almost not successful : very close to failure ▪ a *narrow* escape/victory : almost not enough for success ▪ They won by a *narrow* [=*close, small*] margin.

the straight and narrow see [3]STRAIGHT
— **nar•row•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[2]narrow *verb* **-rows; -rowed; -row•ing**

1 a [+ *obj*] : to make (something) less wide ▪ She *narrowed* her eyes and stared at me. = She stared at me through *narrowed* [=partly closed] eyes. ▪ The path was *narrowed* by overgrowth. **b** [*no obj*] : to become less wide ▪ His eyes *narrowed* as he focused on the words in front of him. ▪ The vase *narrows* at its top.

2 a [+ *obj*] : to make (something) smaller in amount or range ▪ The field has been *narrowed* [=*reduced*] from eight to two candidates. ▪ We've been able to *narrow* [=*limit*] the search to a three-mile area. ▪ *narrowing* the range of options ▪ You'll

need to *narrow* the focus of your paper to one central idea. — often + *down* ▪ The choices have been *narrowed down* to two. ▪ To *narrow down* its pool of applicants, the school made its admission requirements stricter. **b** [*no obj*] : to become smaller in amount or range ▪ The gap between their salaries was beginning to *narrow*.

– **narrowing** *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] — usually singular ▪ a *narrowing* of the blood vessels

nar•row•ly /ˈneroʊli/ *adv* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : by a very small number, amount, or distance ▪ The bullet *narrowly* missed his heart. [=the bullet did not hit his heart, but it almost did] ▪ We *narrowly* [=*barely*] escaped with our lives. ▪ The team *narrowly* won the last game of the season.

2 : in a way that does not include or involve many things or people ▪ While the organization defines the term "family" very *narrowly*, many people have a rather liberal idea of what it means to be a family. ▪ The study *narrowly* focuses on 30-year-old men.

nar•row–mind•ed /ˈnerəʊˈmaɪndəd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not willing to accept opinions, beliefs, or behaviors that are unusual or different from your own ▪ Her mother was *narrow-minded* about religion. ▪ a *narrow-minded* view of racial issues

– **nar•row–mind•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

nar•rows /ˈneroʊz/ *noun* [*plural*] : a narrow passage that connects two areas of water ▪ He skillfully sailed the ship through the *narrows*.

nary /ˈneri/ *adj* : not one — used in the phrases ***nary a*** or ***nary an*** ▪ They survived the accident with *nary a* scratch. [=without a single scratch] ▪ *Nary a* word was spoken.

NASA /ˈnæsə/ *abbr* National Aeronautics and Space Administration ✧ NASA is a U.S. government organization that is responsible for space travel and research.

na•sal /ˈneɪzəl/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* : of or relating to the nose ▪ a bottle of *nasal* spray ▪ medicine for *nasal* congestion ▪ *nasal* passages

2 a *always used before a noun* : produced by pushing air out through the nose when you speak ▪ the *nasal* consonants /m/ and /n/ ▪ the *nasal* vowels in French ▪ *nasal* sounds **b** : producing nasal sounds ▪ Her voice is harsh and *nasal*.

– **na•sal•ly** *adv* ▪ She sung/spoke *nasally*.

NASCAR /ˈnæsˌkɑɚ/ *abbr, US* National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing

na•scent /ˈnæsn̩t/ *adj, formal* : beginning to exist : recently formed or developed ▪ *nascent* democratic governments ▪ a *nascent* technology ▪ The actress is now focusing on her *nascent* singing career.

nas•tur•tium /nəˈstɚʃəm/ *noun, pl* **-tiums** [*count*] : a plant with circular leaves and yellow, orange, or red flowers that are sometimes eaten

nas•ty /ˈnæsti, *Brit* ˈnɑːsti/ *adj* **nas•ti•er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*]

1 : very unpleasant to see, smell, taste, etc. ▪ She has a *nasty* habit of biting her fingernails. ▪ The food looks *nasty*. ▪ The medicine left a *nasty* taste in my mouth. ▪ a *nasty*-tasting medicine

2 : indecent and offensive ▪ a violent movie with a lot of *nasty* [=*bad, dirty*] language

3 : unpleasant and unkind ▪ That was a *nasty* [=*cruel, mean*] trick! ▪ That *nasty* old man yelled at me just for stepping on his lawn! ▪ He sent a *nasty* letter/e-mail to the company. ▪ She's got quite a *nasty* temper/disposition. ▪ He said lots of downright *nasty* things about her. ▪ She called him a few *nasty* names and left.

4 : very bad or unpleasant ▪ *nasty* weather/storms ▪ It's rainy and *nasty* outside. ▪ I've got a really *nasty* problem. ▪ He's in for a *nasty* surprise when he gets home. ▪ He just went through a *nasty* divorce. ▪ a *nasty* legal battle ▪ Their relationship ***got/turned nasty*** soon after they were married.

5 : very serious or severe ▪ You've got a *nasty* cut on your head. ▪ a *nasty* wound : causing much damage ▪ She had a *nasty* fall on the ice. ▪ He took a *nasty* spill while riding his bike.

– **nas•ti•ly** /ˈnæstəli, *Brit* ˈnɑːstəli/ *adv* ▪ He spoke *nastily* about his ex-girlfriend. – **nas•ti•ness** /ˈnæstinəs, *Brit* ˈnɑːstinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

natch /ˈnætʃ/ *adv, informal* : as you would expect : NATURALLY ▪ He bought the most expensive car he could find, *natch*.

na•tion /ˈneɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 a [*count*] : a large area of land that is controlled by its own government : COUNTRY ▪ It's one of the richest/poorest *nations* in the world. ▪ the largest state/province in the *nation* ▪ industrialized/developing *nations* ▪ the United *Nations* **b** ***the nation*** : the people who live in a nation ▪ The President will speak to *the nation* tonight. ▪ *The* entire *nation* is celebrating the victory.

2 ***Nation*** [*count*] : a tribe of Native Americans or a group of Native American tribes that share the same history, traditions, or language ▪ the Cheyenne Indian *Nation* ▪ the Navajo *Nation*

[1]na•tion•al /ˈnæʃənl/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to an entire nation or country ▪ local and *national* governments ▪ *national* politics ▪ the *national* economy ▪ *national* security/defense ▪ the country's *national* flag/symbol ▪ She won the *national* championship/title last year. ▪ His test scores were higher than the *national* average. ▪ They were *national* heroes. ▪ Doing well in the Olympics is a matter of *national* pride. ▪ Baseball is called America's *national* pastime. ▪ The game was shown on *national* television.

2 *always used before a noun* : owned and controlled or operated by a national government ▪ Arlington *National* Cemetery in Washington, D.C. ▪ the *National* Museum of Art ▪ a *national* bank/forest

– **na•tion•al•ly** /ˈnæʃənəli/ *adv* ▪ a *nationally* televised game ▪ The movie opens *nationally* [=in theaters throughout the nation] this weekend. ▪ She ranks high *nationally* in her math and science scores. ▪ The university is known *nationally* and internationally for its writing program.

[2]national *noun, pl* **-als**

1 [*count*] *formal* : a person who is a citizen of a country ▪ She's a Mexican *national* now working in the United States. ▪ foreign *nationals*

2 ***nationals*** [*plural*] : competitions in which people or teams from all areas of a country compete ▪ The U.S. *Nationals* will be held in New York City this year.

national anthem *noun, pl* **~ -thems** [*count*] : a song that praises a particular country and that is officially accepted as the country's song ✧ *National anthems* are often played or sung at special events.

national debt *noun, pl* **~ debts** [*count*] : the total amount of money that the government of a country owes to companies, countries, etc.

National Guard *noun* [*singular*] : a military group that is organized in each U.S. state but given money and supplies by the national government and that can be used by the state or the country

National Health Service *noun*

the National Health Service : the public system of medical care in Britain that is paid for by taxes

National Insurance *noun* [*noncount*] : a British insurance system that workers and their employers contribute to regularly and which gives money to people who are retired, ill, or unemployed

na•tion•al•ism /ˈnæʃənəˌlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : a feeling that people have of being loyal to and proud of their country often with the belief that it is better and more important than other countries ▪ The war was caused by *nationalism* and greed. — compare PATRIOTISM

2 : a desire by a large group of people (such as people who share the same culture, history, language, etc.) to form a separate and independent nation of their own ▪ Scottish *nationalism*

[1]na•tion•al•ist /ˈnæʃənəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*]

1 : a supporter of or believer in nationalism ▪ German/American/Russian *nationalists*

2 *or* ***Nationalist*** : a member of a political group that wants to form a separate and independent nation ▪ Irish *Nationalists*

[2]nationalist *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : of or relating to nationalism ▪ *nationalist* beliefs/ideologies/sentiments

2 *or* ***Nationalist*** : of or relating to a political group that wants to form a separate and independent nation ▪ The country's *Nationalist* Party won the election.

na•tion•al•is•tic /ˌnæʃənəˈlɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : relating to or showing a belief that your country is better and more important than other countries ▪ the political party's *nationalistic* ideology ▪ *nationalistic* election speeches

na•tion•al•i•ty /ˌnæʃəˈnæləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*count*] : a group of people who share the same history, traditions, and language, and who usually live together in a particular country ▪ The country is home to five *nationalities*

and seven languages. ▪ people of all races and *nationalities*

2 *formal* : the fact or status of being a member or citizen of a particular nation [*noncount*] She's American, but her parents are of Japanese *nationality*. ▪ He has held French *nationality* for the past 20 years. [*count*] The university has students of over 50 *nationalities*.

na•tion•al•ize /ˈnæʃənəˌlaɪz/ *also Brit* **na•tion•al•ise** *verb* **-iz•es; -ized; -iz•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to be under the control of a national government ▪ The government *nationalized* the health-care system in the mid-1950s. ▪ *nationalizing* the country's oil supply — opposite PRIVATIZE, (*Brit*) DENATIONALIZE

– **na•tion•al•i•za•tion** *also Brit* **na•tion•al•i•sa•tion** /ˌnæʃənələˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌnæʃənəˌlaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *nationalization* of health care

National League *noun*

the National League : one of the two major leagues in professional U.S. baseball — compare AMERICAN LEAGUE

national monument *noun, pl* ~ **-ments** [*count*] : a place (such as an old building or an area of land) that is owned and protected by a national government because of its natural beauty or its importance to history or science ▪ the Statue of Liberty *National Monument*

national park *noun, pl* ~ **parks** [*count*] : an area of land that is owned and protected by a national government because of its natural beauty or its importance to history or science ▪ Yellowstone *National Park*

na•tion•hood /ˈneɪʃənˌhʊd/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the state of being an independent nation ▪ the early days of U.S. *nationhood* ▪ The colonists showed a strong desire for *nationhood*.

na•tion–state /ˈneɪʃənˈsteɪt/ *noun, pl* **-states** [*count*] : a form of political organization in which a group of people who share the same history, traditions, or language live in a particular area under one government

na•tion•wide /ˌneɪʃənˈwaɪd/ *adj* : including or involving all parts of a nation or country ▪ The murders attracted *nationwide* attention.

– **nationwide** *adv* ▪ The company has opened several stores *nationwide*.

[1]na•tive /ˈneɪtɪv/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* **a** : born in a particular place ▪ I'm a *native* New Yorker. [=I was born in New York] ▪ people who are *native* to France **b** — used to refer to the place where a person was born and raised ▪ He's a hero in his *native* country. ▪ After 30 years, I am finally returning to my *native* land.

2 a *always used before a noun* : belonging to a person since birth or childhood ▪ She speaks English, but it's not her *native* [=*first*] language/tongue. — see also NATIVE SPEAKER **b** : existing naturally as an ability, quality, etc., that someone has ▪ She has a *native* ability to learn quickly. ▪ his *native* wit

3 a : produced, living, or existing naturally in a particular region ▪ *native* [=*indigenous*] birds and animals ▪ The island is home to several *native* species of trees. — often + *to* ▪ birds that are *native to* the continent **b** — used to refer to the place or type of place where a plant or animal normally or naturally lives ▪ Increasing pollution is endangering the plant's *native* habitat.

4 *always used before a noun* : of or relating to a group of people who were living in an area (such as North America or Africa) when a new group of usually European people arrived ▪ *native* societies ▪ *native* art/traditions ▪ *native* inhabitants/peoples

go native : to start to behave or live like the local people ▪ After a few weeks, she was comfortable enough to *go native* and wear shorts to work.

[2]native *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*]

1 : a person who was born or raised in a particular place ▪ She's a *native* of France who moved to the United States when she was 15. ▪ I'm a California *native*. ▪ He wishes he could speak Spanish like a *native*.

2 : a person from a group of people who were living in an area (such as South America or Africa) when Europeans first arrived ✧ This sense of *native* was commonly used in the past but is now often considered offensive.

3 : a kind of plant or animal that originally grew or lived in a particular place ▪ The plant is a *native* of Central and South America.

Native American *noun, pl* ~ **-cans** [*count*] : a member of any of the first groups of people living in North America or South America; *especially* : a member of one of these groups from the U.S.

usage *Native American* is the term that is now most often used for people whose ancestors lived in North and South America before the arrival of Europeans in 1492. The term *American Indian* is also often used, but it is offensive to some people. The term *Indian* by itself is also still used but is now often considered offensive and should usually be avoided.

– **Native American** *adj* ▪ *Native American* tribes ▪ their *Native American* ancestors ▪ She's part *Native American*.

native speaker *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a person who learned to speak the language of the place where they were born as a child rather than learning it as a foreign language ▪ She's a *native speaker* of Swahili. ▪ That kind of mistake is rarely made by *native speakers*.

Na•tiv•i•ty /nəˈtɪvəti/ *noun*

the Nativity : the birth of Jesus ▪ a painting of *the Nativity*

– **Nativity** *or* **nativity** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ the *nativity* stories in the Bible ▪ a ***Nativity scene*** [=a picture or a set of statues representing the birth of Jesus]

natl. *or* **nat'l** *abbr* national

NATO /ˈneɪtoʊ/ *abbr* North Atlantic Treaty Organization ✧ NATO is an organization of countries that have agreed to provide military support to each other. It includes many European countries as well as the U.S. and Canada.

nat•ter /ˈnætɚ/ *verb* **-ters; -tered; -ter•ing** [*no obj*] *chiefly Brit* : to talk about unimportant things for a long time ▪ If you ask about his grandchildren, he'll *natter* on about them for hours. ▪ She *nattered* about herself through our entire meal.

– **natter** *noun* [*singular*] *Brit* ▪ We had a nice *natter* [=*chat*] on the phone.

nat•ty /ˈnæti/ *adj* **nat•ti•er; -est** *informal* : very neat and clean ▪ a soldier in his *natty* blue uniform ▪ He's quite a *natty* dresser.

– **nat•ti•ly** /ˈnætəli/ *adv* ▪ a *nattily* dressed man

[1]nat•u•ral /ˈnætʃərəl/ *adj*

1 a : existing in nature and not made or caused by people : coming from nature ▪ *natural* silk ▪ furniture made of *natural* materials ▪ The river forms a *natural* boundary between the two countries. ▪ That's not his *natural* hair color. [=he dyes his hair] ▪ a *natural* lake [=a lake that is not man-made] ▪ She prefers to use *natural* light [=light from the sun] when taking photographs. ▪ a country rich in ***natural resources*** [=a country that has many valuable plants, animals, minerals, etc.] ▪ learning more about the ***natural world*** [=animals, plants, etc.] **b** : not having any extra substances or chemicals added : not containing anything artificial ▪ *natural* soap/yogurt ▪ ***natural foods*** like whole grain bread and fresh vegetables ▪ Our bakery uses ***all-natural*** ingredients. [=ingredients that are from nature and not artificial]

2 : usual or expected : NORMAL ▪ Gray hair is one of the *natural* consequences of getting older. ▪ a *natural* increase in the population ▪ the *natural* course of the disease ▪ It's perfectly/only *natural* to feel nervous before a test. ▪ He died of ***natural causes***. [=he died because he was ill or old and not by being killed in an accident, battle, etc.] — see also NATURAL CHILDBIRTH

3 *always used before a noun* — used to describe a quality, ability, etc., that a person or animal is born with and does not have to learn ▪ The science class will encourage his *natural* curiosity. ▪ She has a *natural* talent for art. ▪ He has a *natural* ability to make people feel comfortable. ▪ She's a *natural* athlete/leader. [=she has natural abilities that make her a good athlete/leader]

4 ✧ To ***be/act/look natural*** is to be normal and relaxed in the way you behave and look. ▪ I'm going to take your picture but don't pose—*look natural*. ▪ Try to *be/act natural*.

5 *always used before a noun* **a** : related by blood ▪ his *natural* mother [=the woman who gave birth to him] ▪ She was adopted immediately after she was born and never knew her *natural* [=(more commonly) *birth*] parents. **b** *old-fashioned* : born to parents who are not married to each other : ILLEGITIMATE ▪ a *natural* son/daughter

6 *of a choice, decision, etc.* : logical and reasonable ▪ We considered our options, and this car was the *natural* choice. [=the choice that made the most sense] ▪ He is the *natural* choice to succeed his father as company president. ▪ They made the *natural* decision to keep trying.

7 *always used before a noun, formal* : based on a sense of what is right and wrong ▪ ***natural justice/law***

8 *music* : neither a sharp nor flat ▪ B *natural* ▪ F *natural*

N

– **nat·u·ral·ness** /ˈnætʃərəlnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ his *naturalness* as an actor ▪ the *naturalness* of his acting

²natural *noun, pl* **-rals** [*count*]

1 a : someone who is good at doing something from the first time it is done : someone who has a natural ability to do something — usually singular ▪ She loved rock climbing from the start. She's a *natural*. — often + *at* ▪ He's a *natural at* (playing) the piano. ▪ a *natural at* golf **b** : someone or something that is suited for a particular job, purpose, etc. — usually singular; usually + *for* ▪ He is a *natural for* the job. ▪ The bread's texture makes it a *natural for* eating with stew.

2 a : a musical note that is neither sharp nor flat **b** : a written symbol ♮ that is placed before a musical note to show that it is neither sharp nor flat

natural–born *adj, always used before a noun* : able to do something well immediately or from the very first time ▪ She's a *natural-born* artist/leader. [=she has natural abilities that make her a good artist/leader]

natural childbirth *noun* [*noncount*] : a method of giving birth to a baby in which the mother chooses not to use drugs to reduce pain or to make the birth happen more quickly

natural disaster *noun, pl* ~ **-ters** [*count*] : a sudden and terrible event in nature (such as a hurricane, tornado, or flood) that usually results in serious damage and many deaths

natural gas *noun* [*noncount*] : gas that is taken from under the ground and used as fuel ▪ a house heated by *natural gas*

natural history *noun* [*noncount*] : the study of plants, animals, and sometimes ancient human civilizations ▪ the *natural history* of bees ▪ We went to the *Natural History* Museum.

nat·u·ral·ism /ˈnætʃərəˌlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a style of art or literature that shows people and things as they actually are

¹nat·u·ral·ist /ˈnætʃərəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who studies plants and animals as they live in nature ▪ a world-renowned *naturalist*

²naturalist *adj* : NATURALISTIC 2 ▪ a *naturalist* painting/painter

nat·u·ral·is·tic /ˌnætʃərəˈlɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : looking like what appears in nature : not looking artificial or man-made ▪ The zoo strives to create *naturalistic* settings for the animals.

2 : using naturalism in art or literature : showing people or things as they really are ▪ *naturalistic* writing/paintings

nat·u·ral·ize *also Brit* **nat·u·ral·ise** /ˈnætʃərəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-iz·es; -ized; -iz·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to allow (someone who was born in a different country) to become a new citizen ▪ The government refused to *naturalize* them without documentation. ▪ *naturalized* citizens of the U.S.

2 : to cause (a plant or animal from another place) to begin to grow and live in a new area [+ *obj*] Several Asian fish have become *naturalized* in these lakes. ▪ Before you *naturalize* bulbs in your lawn, fertilize well. [*no obj*] These daisies *naturalize* well in the Pacific Northwest.

– **nat·u·ral·i·za·tion** *also Brit* **nat·u·ral·i·sa·tion** /ˌnætʃərələˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌnætʃərəˌlaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ immigrants seeking *naturalization* ▪ the *naturalization* of new plants in the river basin

nat·u·ral·ly /ˈnætʃərəli/ *adv*

1 — used to describe something that happens or exists by itself without being controlled or changed by someone ▪ Her hair curls *naturally*. ▪ a *naturally* sweet tea ▪ A number of important vitamins are found *naturally* in dark green vegetables like spinach. ▪ Pearls are produced *naturally* by oysters. ▪ He is *naturally* blond. ▪ Their friendship developed *naturally* over time.

2 — used to say that something is expected or normal ▪ *Naturally*, some mistakes were made. ▪ When he heard the comment, he was *naturally* [=*of course*] a little offended. ▪ *Naturally* you'll want rooms for the night. ▪ "Did you visit her while you were there?" "*Naturally*." [=*of course; yes*]

3 : because of a quality or skill that a person or animal is born with ▪ She's *naturally* competitive. ▪ He's *naturally* able to make people feel comfortable. ▪ Cats are said to be *naturally* curious.

4 : in a way that is relaxed and normal ▪ It's hard to speak/act *naturally* when you're nervous.

5 : in a way that makes sense : in a logical and reasonable way ▪ Her conclusions follow *naturally* from the theory. ▪ Questions about the journalist's sources arise *naturally* from such a controversial report. ▪ When I saw that there were no lights on in the house, I *naturally* assumed you were asleep.

come naturally ✧ If something *comes naturally* to you, you are able to do or learn it easily. ▪ Musical talent *comes naturally* to that family. ▪ Memorizing important dates in history *came naturally* to him [=was easy for him] in school.

natural science *noun, pl* ~ **-ences** : a science (such as physics, chemistry, or biology) that studies the physical and natural world or the events that happen in nature [*count*] He is interested in the *natural sciences*. [*noncount*] a new approach to *natural science*

natural selection *noun* [*noncount*] : the process by which plants and animals that can adapt to changes in their environment are able to survive and reproduce while those that cannot adapt do not survive

natural wastage *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : ATTRITION 1

na·ture /ˈneɪtʃɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tures**

1 *also* ***Nature*** [*noncount*] **a** : the physical world and everything in it (such as plants, animals, mountains, oceans, stars, etc.) that is not made by people ▪ the beauty of *nature* ▪ She is a real *nature* lover. = She really loves *nature*. [=she loves to spend time outdoors] ▪ He devoted himself to the study of *nature*. ▪ That is a color not found in *nature*. ▪ *nature* photography ▪ *nature* conservation **b** : the natural forces that control what happens in the world ▪ the forces of *nature* ▪ Hunger is *nature's* way of telling you to eat. ▪ Gravity is one of the basic ***laws of nature***. — see also CALL OF NATURE, FREAK OF NATURE, MOTHER NATURE

2 : the way that a person or animal behaves : the character or personality of a person or animal [*count*] She has a competitive *nature*. [=she is competitive] ▪ The differences in their *natures* was easy to see. ▪ an animal with a gentle *nature* [=a gentle animal] [*noncount*] The children took advantage of the teacher's good *nature*. [=the teacher's kindness] ▪ She's very competitive ***by nature***. — see also GOOD-NATURED, HUMAN NATURE, ILL-NATURED, SECOND NATURE

3 : a basic quality that something has [*count*] — usually singular; often + *of* ▪ the *nature of* steel ▪ What is the true *nature of* democracy? ▪ Because of the fragile *nature of* the manuscripts [=because the manuscripts are fragile], the museum keeps them behind glass. [*noncount*] Her writing is humorous ***in nature***. [=her writing has humorous qualities]

4 [*singular*] : a particular kind of thing ▪ What is the *nature* of your problem? [=what kind of problem do you have?] ▪ papers of a confidential *nature* [=papers that are confidential] ▪ His medical condition is not of a serious *nature*. [=is not serious] ▪ You'll need to bring a toothbrush, soap, and things ***of that nature***. [=other similar things]

get/go back to nature *also* ***return to nature*** : to spend time living in a simple way without modern machines, electricity, etc. ▪ They went on a camping trip to *get back to nature*.

let nature take its course : to allow something to happen without trying to control it ▪ The injury should heal within a few weeks if you just *let nature take its course*.

nature reserve *noun, pl* ~ **-serves** [*count*] : an area where animals and plants are protected and that has few buildings or homes — called also (*US*) *nature preserve*

nature trail *noun, pl* ~ **trails** [*count*] : a path through a forest, field, mountain range, etc., that is used for hiking and seeing plants and animals

na·tur·ism /ˈneɪtʃəˌrɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : NUDISM

na·tur·ist /ˈneɪtʃərɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] *Brit* : NUDIST

na·tu·rop·a·thy /ˌneɪtʃəˈrɑːpəθi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the treatment of illness by using diet, herbs, exercises, etc., without using standard drugs or surgery

– **na·tu·ro·path** /ˈneɪtʃərəˌpæθ/ *noun, pl* **-paths** [*count*] ▪ She has been trained as a *naturopath*. – **na·tu·ro·path·ic** /ˌneɪtʃərəˈpæθɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *naturopathic* treatment

naught (*chiefly US*) *or chiefly Brit* **nought** /ˈnɑːt/ *pronoun, old-fashioned* : ¹NOTHING ▪ All our efforts ***came to naught***. = (*US*) All our efforts ***went for naught***. [=we did not succeed in doing what we were trying to do] ▪ (*chiefly US*) It was ***all for naught***. [=it was all for nothing]

naugh·ty /ˈnɑːti/ *adj* **naugh·ti·er; -est**

1 : behaving badly — used especially to describe a child who does not behave properly or obey a parent, teacher, etc. ▪ a *naughty* [=*bad*] boy/girl ▪ Were you *naughty* today at school or did you obey the teacher? — sometimes used humorously to describe an adult who does something slightly wrong or improper ▪ I was *naughty* and cheated on my diet.

2 *informal* : relating to or suggesting sex in usually a playful way ▪ She gave him a *naughty* smile. ▪ No *naughty* [=*dirty*]

jokes in front of the children, please! ▪ a *naughty* outfit
– **naugh·ti·ly** /ˈnɑːtəli/ *adv* ▪ She smiled *naughtily*.
– **naugh·ti·ness** /ˈnɑːtinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Oh, you'll be punished for your *naughtiness*!

nau·sea /ˈnɑːzijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the feeling you have in your stomach when you think you are going to vomit ▪ Some people experience *nausea* when flying. ▪ A feeling/wave of *nausea* suddenly came over me.

nau·se·ate /ˈnɑːziˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at·ed**; **-at·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to cause (someone) to feel like vomiting ▪ The smell of gasoline *nauseates* me.
2 : to cause (someone) to feel disgusted ▪ It *nauseated* him to see the way the animals were treated.
– **nauseated** *adj* ▪ He was feeling weak and *nauseated*.

nauseating *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : causing you to feel like you are going to vomit ▪ the *nauseating* smell of rotting garbage
2 : causing disgust ▪ The way the animals were treated was *nauseating*. ▪ It was *nauseating* to see the two of them act like lovesick teenagers.
– **nau·se·at·ing·ly** *adv* ▪ His letter to her was *nauseatingly* sweet.

nau·seous /ˈnɑːʃəs, ˈnɑːzijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : feeling like you are about to vomit ▪ The smell of gasoline makes me *nauseous*. ▪ I began to feel *nauseous*.
2 : causing you to feel like you are going to vomit ▪ the *nauseous* [=(more commonly) *nauseating*] smell of rotting garbage
3 : causing disgust ▪ the *nauseous* [=(more commonly) *nauseating*] spectacle of politicians blaming each other

nau·ti·cal /ˈnɑːtɪkəl/ *adj* : relating to ships and sailing ▪ a dictionary of *nautical* terms ▪ *nautical* charts

nautical mile *noun, pl* ~ **miles** [*count*] : a unit of distance equal to 1,852 meters or 1.15 miles that is used for sea and air travel

Na·va·jo /ˈnævəˌhoʊ/ *noun, pl* **Navajo** *or* **Na·va·jos**
1 [*count*] : a member of a Native American people originally from New Mexico and Arizona
2 [*noncount*] : the language of the Navajo people

na·val /ˈneɪvəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to a country's navy ▪ *naval* base/history/officer

nave /ˈneɪv/ *noun, pl* **naves** [*count*] : the long center part of a church where people sit

na·vel /ˈneɪvəl/ *noun, pl* **-vels** [*count*] : the small, hollow or raised area in the middle of your stomach — called also *belly button*; see picture at HUMAN

navel–gaz·ing /ˈneɪvəlˈgeɪzɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *somewhat humorous* : the activity of thinking too much or too deeply about yourself, your experiences, your feelings, etc. ▪ I think she's a good writer, but her essays are full of *navel-gazing*.

navel orange *noun, pl* ~ **-anges** [*count*] : a kind of orange that does not have seeds

nav·i·ga·ble /ˈnævɪgəbəl/ *adj* : deep and wide enough for boats and ships to travel on or through : capable of being navigated ▪ a *navigable* river ▪ The marsh was *navigable* only by canoe. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ This Web site is well-organized and easily *navigable*. [=it is easy to get from one Web page to another within that Web site] ▪ The legal system is not easily *navigable*. [=it is difficult to understand the legal system]
– **nav·i·ga·bil·i·ty** /ˌnævɪgəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ We are unsure about the *navigability* of the river.

nav·i·gate /ˈnævəˌgeɪt/ *verb* **-gates**; **-gat·ed**; **-gat·ing**
1 : to find the way to get to a place when you are traveling in a ship, airplane, car, etc. [*no obj*] For thousands of years, sailors *navigated* by the stars. ▪ How about if you drive and I *navigate*? [+ *obj*] I'd need a map to *navigate* the city. — often used figuratively ▪ We have had to carefully *navigate* (our way) through a maze of rules and regulations.
2 a : to sail on, over, or through an area of water [+ *obj*] Only flat-bottomed boats can safely *navigate* the canal. [*no obj*] He has learned to *navigate* in rough waters. **b** : to travel on, over, or through (an area or place) [+ *obj*] The downtown area is easily *navigated* on foot. ▪ She has trouble *navigating* the stairs with her crutches. [*no obj*] It took us 10 minutes to *navigate* through the parking lot to the exit.
3 [+ *obj*] : to control the direction of (something, such as a ship or airplane) : STEER ▪ The captain *navigated* the ship. ▪ He has had experience *navigating* airplanes through storms. — often used figuratively ▪ She has carefully *navigated* the company through some difficult times.
4 *computers* : to go to different places on the Internet or on a particular Web site in order to find what you want [+ *obj*] You *navigate* this site by clicking on the pictures. ▪ There are a number of browsers that can be used to *navigate* the Web/Internet. [*no obj*] A fast connection makes it easier to *navigate* on the Internet.

nav·i·ga·tion /ˌnævəˈgeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the act, activity, or process of finding the way to get to a place when you are traveling in a ship, airplane, car, etc. ▪ If you're going to be a good sailor/pilot, you need to master *navigation*. ▪ *navigation* by satellite ▪ I don't mind driving if you're willing to do the *navigation*. ▪ Our new car has an on-board *navigation* system.
2 : the act of moving in a boat or ship over an area of water ▪ *Navigation* becomes more difficult further upriver.
3 *computers* : the act of going to different places on the Internet or on a particular Web site in order to find what you want ▪ There are back and forward buttons for easier browser *navigation*.
– **nav·i·ga·tion·al** /ˌnævəˈgeɪʃənl/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ The car is equipped with a *navigational* system.

nav·i·ga·tor /ˈnævəˌgeɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]
1 : a person who finds out how to get to a place : a person who navigates a ship, an airplane, etc. ▪ The crew includes a copilot and a *navigator*. ▪ Would you be willing to act as *navigator* while I drive?
2 : a device (such as a computer) that is used to plan or find the route to a place ▪ The ship is equipped with a satellite *navigator*.

nav·vy /ˈnævi/ *noun, pl* **-vies** [*count*] *Brit* : a worker who does very hard physical labor

na·vy /ˈneɪvi/ *noun, pl* **-vies**
1 [*count*] : the part of a country's military forces that fights at sea using ships, submarines, airplanes, etc. ▪ A similar submarine is used by several foreign *navies*. ▪ a career in the *navy* — usually capitalized when a specific navy is being referred to ▪ the Russian *Navy* ▪ He plans to join the *Navy*.
2 [*noncount*] : NAVY BLUE ▪ The shirt comes in black, white, and *navy*. ▪ a *navy* sweater

navy bean *noun, pl* ~ **beans** [*count*] *US* : a type of white bean — called also (*Brit*) *haricot bean*

navy blue *noun* [*noncount*] : a very dark blue ▪ I ordered the same jacket in *navy blue*. — called also *navy*; see color picture on page C2
– **navy blue** *adj* ▪ a *navy blue* dress

[1]nay /ˈneɪ/ *adv*
1 *old-fashioned* + *literary* — used to correct what you have said by replacing a word with one that is more accurate or appropriate ▪ The letter made her happy—*nay*, ecstatic. [=it did not just make her happy, it made her ecstatic]
2 *old-fashioned* : [1]NO ▪ *Nay*, I do not wish to go. ▪ I dare not say him *nay*. [=I dare not say no to him]

[2]nay *noun, pl* **nays** [*count*] *formal* : a no vote ▪ We have 6 *nays* [=6 votes of "no"] and 12 yeas, so the measure passes. — compare [2]AYE, [2]YEA

nay·say·er /ˈneɪˌsejɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *formal* : a person who says something will not work or is not possible : a person who denies, refuses, or opposes something ▪ There are always *naysayers* who say it can't be done.

Na·zi /ˈnɑːtsi/ *noun, pl* **-zis** [*count*]
1 : a member of a German political party that controlled Germany from 1933 to 1945 under Adolf Hitler
2 *disapproving* : an evil person who wants to use power to control and harm other people especially because of their race, religion, etc. ▪ a gang of racist *Nazis* — see also NEO-NAZI
– **Nazi** *adj* ▪ *Nazi* ideology – **Na·zism** /ˈnɑːtˌsɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]

NB *also* **N.B.** *abbr* please note — used in writing to tell the reader that something is important ▪ *NB*: applications will not be accepted after May 5. ✧ The abbreviation *NB* comes from the Latin phrase "nota bene," which means "mark well."

NBA *abbr, US* National Basketball Association ✧ The NBA is the major professional basketball league in the U.S.

NBC *abbr, US* National Broadcasting Company ✧ NBC is one of the major television networks in the U.S.

NC *abbr* North Carolina

NCAA *abbr, US* National Collegiate Athletic Association ✧ The NCAA is an organization that organizes athletic activities for many U.S. colleges and universities.

NCO /ˌɛnˌsiːˈoʊ/ *noun, pl* **NCOs** [*count*] : NONCOMISSIONED OFFICER

NC–17 /ˈɛnˈsiːˌsɛvənˈtiːn/ — used as a special mark to indicate that no one who is 17 years old or younger may see a particular movie in a movie theater ▪ The movie is rated *NC-17*. — compare G, PG, PG-13, R, X

ND *abbr* North Dakota

-nd — used in writing after the number 2 for the word *second* ▪ He's in 2*nd* [=*second*] grade. ▪ She came in 42*nd* in the race.

NE *abbr* **1** Nebraska **2** New England **3** northeast

Ne•an•der•thal /niˈændɚˌtɑːl/ *noun, pl* **-thals** [*count*]
1 : a type of early human being that existed very long ago in Europe — called also *Neanderthal man*
2 *informal + disapproving* **a :** a man who is stupid and rude ▪ I can't believe I was married to that *Neanderthal* for three years. **b :** a person who has very old-fashioned ideas and who does not like change ▪ Some *Neanderthals* continue to resist the education reform bill.

Ne•a•pol•i•tan ice cream /ˌniːjəˈpɑːlətən-/ *noun* [*noncount*] : ice cream with three different flavors (such as strawberry, vanilla, and chocolate) that are arranged in layers

[1]near /ˈniɚ/ *adv* **near•er; -est**
1 : close to someone or something in distance ▪ I hope that dog doesn't come any *nearer* (to me). ▪ Be sure to have a fire extinguisher ***near at hand***. [=close enough to reach easily] — often used figuratively ▪ We're getting *nearer* to the truth. ▪ We came very *near* to canceling the trip. [=we almost canceled the trip] ▪ Her new book is good, but it doesn't even come *near* to her first book. [=it is not nearly as good as her first book]
2 : not far away in time ▪ The end of the long winter is *near*. [=it will happen soon] ▪ He became more nervous as the day of the wedding ***drew near***. [=*approached*; got closer]
3 : almost or nearly ▪ The plant was *near* dead when I got it. ▪ a *near* perfect score ▪ The job is (damn/damned/darn) *near* impossible. — see also *nowhere near* at [1]NOWHERE
as near as damn it *or* ***as near as dammit*** *Brit, informal* — used to say that something is so close to being correct or true that it can be regarded as correct or true ▪ The hotel room will cost 300 pounds, *as near as damn it*. ▪ She's the best player in the world or *as near as dammit*.
(as) near as I can tell/figure *US, informal* : based on what I know ▪ *As near as I can tell*, we'll arrive by six o'clock.
from far and near, from near and far see [1]FAR

[2]near *prep* : close to (something or someone) ▪ I left the box *near* the door. ▪ The cat won't go *near* fire. ▪ She stood *near* me. ▪ There are several beaches *near* here. ▪ She came home *near* midnight. ▪ We feared he was *near* death.

[3]near *adj* **nearer; -est**
1 : located a short distance away : CLOSE ▪ The *nearest* grocery store is three blocks away. ▪ The airport is quite *near*. [=*nearby*]
2 : not far away in time ▪ Summer is getting *nearer*. ▪ I hope to visit in the *near* future. [=I hope to visit soon]
3 *always used before a noun* **a** — used to refer to the side, end, etc., that is closer ▪ There is a fishing camp on the far side of the lake, but nothing on the *near* side. **b** *Brit, of a car* : LEFT-HAND ▪ The *near* side headlight is out. — compare OFF; see also NEARSIDE
4 *always used before a noun* : almost happening ▪ The ceremony was a *near* disaster. [=was nearly a disaster] ▪ After a *near* win [=after nearly winning] in the first competition, he is ready to try again. ▪ (*Brit*) Our team won the match, but it was a very ***near thing***. [=we almost lost the match] — see also NEAR MISS
5 *always used before a noun* **a :** close to being something ▪ Her victory is a *near* certainty. [=it is nearly certain that she will win] ▪ a *near* miracle ▪ celebrities and *near* celebrities [=people who are almost celebrities] **b *nearest*** : most similar ▪ The lake was the *nearest* thing to an ocean [=the thing most like an ocean] that she had ever seen.
6 : coming after someone or something : in the position or rank after someone or something ▪ He finished the race ahead of his *nearest* rival by only a few feet.
7 *always used before a noun* : closely related ▪ These two kinds of plants are *near* relatives. ▪ Only ***near relations*** [=sisters, brothers, parents, etc.] were invited to the wedding.
near and dear : very close in relationship ▪ friends who are *near and dear* ▪ my ***nearest and dearest*** friend
too near for comfort see [1]COMFORT
to the nearest — used to indicate the number of pounds, dollars, etc., that is closest to a slightly higher or lower number or amount ▪ What is the weight of your baggage *to the nearest* pound? ▪ $13.75 rounded up *to the nearest* dollar is $14.
– near•ness *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He missed her *nearness*. [=*closeness*] ▪ the *nearness* of the storm

[4]near *verb* **nears; neared; near•ing :** to come closer in space or time to someone or something : APPROACH [*no obj*] As the date of the performance *neared*, we grew more and more anxious. ▪ He always cheers up when baseball season *nears*. [+ *obj*] The airplane began to descend as it *neared* the island. ▪ He must be *nearing* 80 years of age. ▪ The negotiators were *nearing* a decision. ▪ The project is ***nearing completion***. [=is almost finished]

near•by /niɚˈbaɪ/ *adj* **:** not far away : located at a short distance from someone or something ▪ a *nearby* village/river ▪ I spoke with a *nearby* policeman about the accident. ▪ He works at the *nearby* university.
– nearby *adv* ▪ They live *nearby*. ▪ The children played *nearby* at the park.

near–death experience *noun, pl* **~ -ences** [*count*] : an occurrence in which a person comes very close to dying and has memories of a spiritual experience (such as meeting dead friends and family members or seeing a white light) during the time when death was near

Near East *noun*
the Near East : MIDDLE EAST

near•ly /ˈniɚli/ *adv* **:** not completely : almost but not quite ▪ I see her *nearly* every day. ▪ We very *nearly* missed the plane. [=we came very close to missing the plane] ▪ I *nearly* won. ▪ I am *nearly* finished. ▪ We lived there for *nearly* two years. ▪ *Nearly* 100 people attended. ▪ *Nearly* all of us got sick that weekend.
not nearly : much less than : not at all ▪ There's *not nearly* enough flour for a cake here. ▪ It's *not nearly* as late as I thought it was.

near miss *noun, pl* **~ miss•es** [*count*]
1 : an attempt that is almost successful ▪ After years of *near misses*, the team has finally won a championship.
2 : an accident that is just barely avoided ▪ There have been two *near misses* [=*close calls*] at that airport recently.
3 : a bomb that misses its target but still causes damage

near•side /ˈniɚˌsaɪd/ *adj, Brit* **:** on the left side : LEFT-HAND ▪ The car's *nearside* headlight is out. ▪ the *nearside* lane
the nearside : the left-hand side ▪ The car was hit on *the nearside*. — compare OFFSIDE

near•sight•ed /ˈniɚˌsaɪtəd/ *adj, chiefly US* **:** unable to see things that are far away : able to see things that are close more clearly than things that are far away ▪ He needs glasses because he's *nearsighted*. [=(*chiefly Brit*) *shortsighted*] — compare FARSIGHTED
– near•sight•ed•ness /ˈniɚˌsaɪtədnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

neat /ˈniːt/ *adj* **neat•er; -est**
1 : not messy : clean and orderly ▪ He keeps his apartment *neat* and clean. ▪ *neat* handwriting ▪ The store is always busy but they manage to keep the shelves stocked and *neat*. ▪ a nice *neat* pile of magazines ▪ Try to be a little *neater* [=try not to make such a mess] the next time you bake cookies. ▪ Fold the paper to make a *neat* edge.
2 : liking to keep things very clean and orderly ▪ His two roommates are both pretty *neat* people. [=they both like to have things cleaned up and put away] ▪ a *neat* man who always wore a suit
3 a : simple and clever ▪ a *neat* trick ▪ He's got a *neat* way of memorizing information. ▪ There is, unfortunately, no *neat* solution to the problem. **b** *US, informal* **:** pleasant, fun, or interesting ▪ I think it's a *neat* idea [=a good idea] to invite the new neighbors to the cookout. ▪ She's a *neat* person who has traveled a lot.
4 *of alcoholic drinks* **:** not mixed with anything : made without ice or water added ▪ I like my bourbon/whiskey *neat*. [=(*US*) *straight*]
– neat•ly *adv* ▪ The books were stacked *neatly* in the corner. ▪ *neatly* arranged plates ▪ The children were dressed *neatly* for the ceremony. **– neat•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ I was amazed by the *neatness* of the room.

neat•en /ˈniːtn̩/ *verb* **-ens; -ened; -en•ing :** to make (something) orderly or neat : to clean up (something) [+ *obj*] I am trying to *neaten* my desk. — often + *up* ▪ I didn't have a chance to *neaten up* the house before the guests arrived. [*no obj*] — + *up* ▪ *Neaten up* before you leave.

neat freak *noun, pl* **~ freaks** [*count*] *US, informal* **:** a person who always wants things to be very orderly and clean ▪ My first college roommate was a real *neat freak*.

'neath /ˈniːθ/ *prep, literary* : BENEATH ▪ We slumbered *'neath* the starry sky.

neb•u•la /ˈnɛbjələ/ *noun, pl* **-lae** /-ˌliː/ *also* **-las** [*count*] *astronomy*
1 : a cloud of gas or dust in space that can sometimes be seen at night
2 : a group of stars that are very far away and look like a bright cloud at night
– **neb•u•lar** /ˈnɛbjələ/ *adj* ▪ *nebular* gases

neb•u•lous /ˈnɛbjələs/ *adj, formal* : not clear : difficult to see, understand, describe, etc. ▪ These philosophical concepts can be *nebulous*. ▪ She gave a *nebulous* [=*vague*] answer to the question.

nec•es•sar•i•ly /ˌnɛsəˈserəli/ *adv, formal* — used to say that something is necessary and cannot be changed or avoided ▪ This endeavor *necessarily* involves some risk.
not necessarily : possibly but not certainly — used to say that something is not definitely true ▪ Seats in the front row are *not necessarily* the best. ▪ "We're going to lose this game." "*Not necessarily*." [=maybe not]

[1]nec•es•sary /ˈnɛsəˌseri, *Brit* ˈnɛsəsri/ *adj*
1 [*more ~; most ~*] : so important that you must do it or have it : absolutely needed ▪ Is it really/absolutely *necessary* for me to have surgery? ▪ The threat of a thunderstorm made it *necessary* to cancel the picnic. ▪ It's not *necessary* to wear a tie. ▪ Food is *necessary* for life. ▪ We had all the *necessary* ingredients. ▪ Apply another coat of paint ***if necessary***. [=if it is needed] ▪ Take as much time ***as necessary***. [=as much time as you need] ▪ She took the medicine only ***when absolutely necessary***. ▪ a ***medically necessary*** procedure
2 *always used before a noun, formal* : unable to be changed or avoided ▪ Higher prices are a ***necessary consequence*** of the company's new services. ▪ There is no ***necessary connection*** between what is legal and what is moral. [=what is legal does not always have to be moral and what is moral does not always have to be legal]
necessary evil see [2]EVIL

[2]necessary *noun, pl* **-sar•ies**
1 *necessaries* [*plural*] : things (such as food, a place to live, and clothing) that you must have : necessary things ▪ We need the *necessaries* [=(more commonly) *necessities*] of life (to survive).
2 *the necessary* *Brit, informal* : whatever is needed for some purpose ▪ I'll ***do the necessary*** [=do whatever is necessary] to get the job done.

ne•ces•si•tate /nɪˈsɛsəˌteɪt/ *verb* **-tates**; **-tat•ed**; **-tat•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to make (something) necessary ▪ New safety regulations *necessitated* adding a railing to the stairs.

ne•ces•si•ty /nɪˈsɛsəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**
1 [*count*] : something that you must have or do : something that is necessary ▪ Sunscreen is an absolute *necessity* for the beach. ▪ food, clothes, and other basic *necessities* ▪ Getting plenty of rest is a *necessity*. ▪ Without a car, living close to work is a *necessity*. ▪ All we took with us on our hiking trip were the bare *necessities*. ▪ Many families cannot even afford the basic/bare ***necessities of life***. [=things that a person must have in order to survive]
2 [*noncount*] *formal* : the quality of being necessary — usually + *of* or *for* ▪ She talked about the *necessity of* having the right training. [=she said that having the right training is necessary] ▪ He questioned the *necessity for* the change. [=he questioned whether the change was necessary]
by necessity *or* ***out of necessity*** : because of conditions that cannot be changed ▪ The process is *by necessity* a slow one. [=the process is necessarily slow; the slowness of the process cannot be avoided] ▪ He works two jobs *out of necessity*. [=because it is necessary]
make a virtue (out) of necessity see VIRTUE
necessity is the mother of invention see [1]MOTHER
of necessity *formal* — used to say that something must happen or must be the way it is ▪ Further changes to the company will occur *of necessity*.

[1]neck /ˈnɛk/ *noun, pl* **necks** [*count*]
1 : the part of the body between the head and the shoulders ▪ She craned/stretched her *neck* to see what was going on. ▪ A giraffe is an animal with a very long *neck*. ▪ He broke his *neck* in the accident. ▪ Stop jumping on the bed. You're going to ***break your neck*** [=you're going to hurt yourself] — see picture at HUMAN
2 : the part of a piece of clothing that fits around your neck ▪ He likes T-shirts with round *necks*. — see also CREW NECK, POLO NECK, SCOOP NECK, TURTLENECK, V-NECK
3 : a long and narrow part of something : a part that is shaped like a neck ▪ He grabbed the *neck* of the bottle. ▪ a *neck* of land [=a narrow stretch of land] ▪ a guitar's *neck*
breathe down someone's neck see BREATHE
dead from the neck up see [1]DEAD
get it in the neck *Brit, informal* : to be severely punished or criticized ▪ He really *got it in the neck* for not finishing the job on time.
neck and neck : extremely close together in a race or contest ▪ The two candidates for president were *neck and neck* in the election. ▪ The two horses were running *neck and neck* to the finish line.
neck of the woods *informal* : the place or area where someone lives ▪ He's from my *neck of the woods*. [=he's from the area where I live] ▪ How is the weather in your *neck of the woods*?
risk your neck : to do something that puts you in danger of serious injury or death ▪ I would never *risk my neck* on a sport like skydiving. ▪ News reporters often *risk their necks* by working in war zones.
save someone's neck see [1]SAVE
stick your neck out : to do or say something you think is important even though it may have bad results ▪ He's not afraid to *stick his neck out* to help people he thinks are being mistreated. ▪ I respect my boss because she will *stick her neck out* against unfair policies.
up to your neck in : deeply involved in or affected by (something) ▪ She's *up to her neck in* work. [=she's very busy] ▪ He's *up to his neck in* debt.
wring someone's neck see WRING

[2]neck *verb* **necks**; **necked**; **neck•ing** [*no obj*] *old-fashioned* + *informal* : to kiss for a long time in a sexual way ▪ The young lovers *necked* on the park bench. ▪ They were *necking* in the corner of the room.

neck–deep *adj*
1 : reaching as high as your neck ▪ She stood in *neck-deep* water.
2 : standing in something that reaches to your neck — usually + *in* ▪ She was *neck-deep in* water. — often used figuratively ▪ We were *neck-deep in* work. [=we were very busy]
– **neck–deep** *adv* ▪ She stood *neck-deep* in the water.

necked /ˈnɛkt/ *adj* : having a neck of a specified kind — used in combination with another adjective ▪ a round-*necked* T-shirt ▪ a long-*necked* bottle

neck•er•chief /ˈnɛkəɹʧəf/ *noun, pl* **-chiefs** *also* **-chieves** /-ʧəfs/ [*count*] : a square piece of cloth that is worn folded around your neck

neck•lace /ˈnɛkləs/ *noun, pl* **-lac•es** [*count*] : a piece of jewelry that is worn around your neck ▪ a gold/diamond/pearl *necklace* — see color picture on page C11

neck•line /ˈnɛkˌlaɪn/ *noun, pl* **-lines** [*count*] : the shape of the opening of a piece of woman's clothing around the neck ▪ The dress has a square/round *neckline*. ▪ a low/plunging *neckline* [=a neckline that leaves the top part of your chest uncovered]

neck•tie /ˈnɛkˌtaɪ/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*count*] *US* : a long piece of cloth that is worn by men around the neck and under a collar and that is tied in front with a knot at the top — called also *tie*; see color picture on page C14; compare BOLO TIE, BOW TIE, CRAVAT

nec•ro•man•cy /ˈnɛkrəˌmænsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *literary*
1 : the practice of talking to the spirits of dead people
2 : the use of magic powers especially for evil purposes ▪ The town accused her of witchcraft and *necromancy*.
– **nec•ro•man•cer** /ˈnɛkrəˌmænsɚ/ *noun, pl* **-cers** [*count*] *literary*

nec•ro•phil•ia /ˌnɛkrəˈfɪlijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : sexual feelings or activities that involve dead bodies
– **nec•ro•phil•i•ac** /ˌnɛkrəˈfɪliˌæk/ *noun, pl* **-acs** [*count*]

ne•crop•o•lis /nəˈkrɑːpələs/ *noun, pl* **-lis•es** [*count*] *formal* : a large cemetery especially of an ancient city ▪ Archaeologists uncovered a *necropolis* of ancient Rome.

nec•tar /ˈnɛktɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 *literary* : the drink that the Greek and Roman gods drank
2 : a thick juice made from a particular fruit ▪ apricot/mango *nectar*
3 : a sweet liquid produced by plants and used by bees in making honey

nec•tar•ine /ˌnɛktəˈriːn, *Brit* ˈnɛktəˌriːn/ *noun, pl* **-ines** [*count*] : a sweet fruit that is like a peach but that has smooth skin

née *or* **nee** /ˈneɪ/ *adj* — used after a married woman's name

to identify the family name that she had when she was born ▪ Mrs. Jane Doe, *née* Smith

[1]need /ˈniːd/ *verb* **needs; need•ed; need•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to be in a condition or situation in which you must have (something) : to require (something) ▪ Do you *need* help? ▪ I *need* some advice. What do you think of this dress? ▪ I just *need* a couple of minutes to get ready. ▪ Most babies *need* at least 12 hours of sleep a day. ▪ We badly *need* a vacation. ▪ a badly *needed* vacation = a much-*needed* vacation ▪ Further research is urgently *needed* if we are to find a cure. ▪ Another delay is ***the last thing I need***! ▪ Men? ***Who needs them***?! I certainly don't. — often used of things ▪ This plant *needs* lots of sunlight. ▪ The soup *needs* some salt. [=this soup does not have enough salt] ▪ They're buying a house that *needs* a lot of work. [=that is in poor condition] ▪ This problem *needs* your attention. [=you should give your attention to this problem]

2 [+ *obj*] **a** — used to say that some action is necessary ▪ I've got a lot of laundry that *needs* washing. — usually followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ I've got a lot of laundry that *needs to be* washed. ▪ We *need to hurry* or we'll miss the bus. ▪ A lot of work *needs to be* done to the house. ▪ You don't *need to* [=*have to*] *answer* that if you don't want to. ▪ "Should we lock the car doors?" "No, I don't think we *need to*." **b** — used to say that it is important and necessary for someone to do something; followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ I *need* you *to tell* me the truth. [=you have to tell me the truth] ▪ We *need* you *to be* well-rested for the game tomorrow. ▪ We *need* you *to answer* a few questions.

3 [*modal verb*] — used to say that something is necessary ▪ All you *need* do is ask. [=all you need to do is ask] ▪ You *need* only look at her [=it is only necessary for you to look at her] to understand why I fell in love. — usually used in negative statements and in questions for which the answer is assumed by the speaker to be "no" ▪ You *needn't* leave if you don't want to. [=you don't have to leave if you don't want to] ▪ You *need not* answer these questions. [=you don't have to answer these questions] ▪ I told him he *needn't* worry. ▪ Nothing bad happened. You *need* not have worried. ▪ *Need* I point out that your father disagrees? ✧ The modal verb *need* is used especially in British English. In U.S. English, it is commonly used in phrases like ***need not apply*** and ***need I say more***. ▪ High school dropouts *need not apply*. [=they should not apply because they will not get the job] ▪ The movie was a complete waste of time. *Need I say more*? [=that is all I need to say]

need no introduction see INTRODUCTION

[2]need *noun, pl* **needs**

1 : a situation in which someone or something must do or have something [*noncount*] You can always call me at home if the *need* arises. ▪ These new methods reduce the *need* to use harmful chemicals on crops. [*singular*] We find that there is still a *need for* further discussion. ▪ There is a great/desperate/pressing *need for* change. — see also *a crying need* at CRYING

2 [*count*] : something that a person must have ▪ Our experienced staff will go out of their way to meet/satisfy/fulfill your every *need*. : something that is needed in order to live or succeed or be happy — usually plural ▪ She struggles to meet the daily *needs* of her children. ▪ the basic *needs* of every human being ▪ This ought to be enough money to cover/meet your immediate *needs*. ▪ economic/financial *needs* ▪ The house is large enough for the family's *needs*. — see also SPECIAL NEEDS

3 [*count*] : a strong feeling that you must have or do something ▪ He has trouble expressing his emotional *needs*. ▪ I felt a *need* to take control of the situation. ▪ a *need* to be loved ▪ She has an overwhelming *need* to be liked and respected. ▪ I don't feel the *need* to defend my decision. ▪ drivers who feel the *need* for speed [=who want to drive fast]

4 [*noncount*] : a situation in which people do not have things that they need ▪ They helped us ***in our hour of need***. [=when we most needed help] ▪ We can always count on them to help us ***in times of need***. [=when we need help] ▪ a charity that raises money for women and children ***in need*** [=who are poor] — see also *a friend in need is a friend indeed* at FRIEND

if need be : if something becomes necessary ▪ You can always call me at home *if need be*. ▪ We'll leave without them *if need be*. [=if we have to]

in need of — used to say that someone or something needs to have something ▪ The program is *in* desperate/dire/urgent *need of* financial support. ▪ More important things were *in need of* her attention. ▪ The trucks are *in* constant *need of* repair.

no need — used to say that something is not necessary ▪ "I'll get someone to help you." "*No need*. I can do it myself." — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ There's no *need to get* excited. ▪ There's no *need to apologize*. ▪ There's no *need to shout*. I can hear you. — often + *for* ▪ There's no *need for* him *to apologize*. ▪ There's no need *for* you *to shout*. = There's no *need for* shouting. ▪ There's no *need for* that kind of behavior. ▪ The doctor says that there's no *need for* surgery.

need•ful /ˈniːdfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 *formal + somewhat old-fashioned* : needed or necessary ▪ What's most *needful* now is patience.

2 *chiefly US* : in a state of needing something : NEEDY ▪ *needful* children — sometimes + *of* ▪ They are *needful of* protection. [=they need protection]

– **need•ful•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]nee•dle /ˈniːdl/ *noun, pl* **nee•dles** [*count*]

1 a : a small, very thin object that is used in sewing and that has a sharp point at one end and a hole for thread ▪ I need a *needle* and thread to sew the button on your shirt. — see picture at SEWING **b** : one of the two long, thin sticks that are used in knitting and that are pointed at one end **c** : a very thin, pointed steel tube that is pushed through the skin so that something (such as a drug) can be put into your body or so that blood or other fluids can be taken from it ▪ a hypodermic *needle* **d** : a very thin tube used with a pump to put air into a ball (such as a basketball or football)

2 : a long, thin object that moves to point to something (such as a measurement or direction) ▪ The *needle* on the scale points to 9 grams. ▪ The compass *needle* points north.

3 : a leaf that is shaped like a very thin stick ▪ pine *needles* — see color picture on page C6

4 : a very small piece of metal that touches a record and produces sound when the record is played ▪ the *needle* of a record player

a needle in a haystack *informal* : someone or something that is very hard to find ▪ Searching for your earring at the park will be like looking for *a needle in a haystack*. ▪ Bumping into an old friend in New York City is like finding a *needle in a haystack*.

– see also PINS AND NEEDLES

– **nee•dle•like** /ˈniːdlˌlaɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

[2]needle *verb* **needles; nee•dled; nee•dling** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to criticize and laugh at (someone) in either a friendly or an unkind way : TEASE ▪ His classmates *needled* him about his new haircut.

nee•dle•point /ˈniːdlˌpɔɪnt/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : designs made by covering a piece of cloth with small stitches ▪ She sold her *needlepoint* at the arts and crafts fair.

2 : the activity or art of making needlepoint ▪ Her hobbies include knitting and *needlepoint*.

– **needlepoint** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *needlepoint* pillows/classes

need•less /ˈniːdləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not needed or necessary — used to describe something bad that did not have to happen ▪ *needless* [=*unnecessary*] waste ▪ *needless* human suffering ▪ a *needless* death

needless to say — used to say that the statement you are making is obvious ▪ The two candidates were equally popular. *Needless to say* [=*of course, obviously*], the election was very close.

– **need•less•ly** *adv* ▪ *needlessly* [=*unnecessarily*] complicated instructions – **need•less•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *needlessness* of his death

nee•dle•work /ˈniːdlˌwɚk/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : things that are made by hand with a needle and thread ▪ She showed us a sample of her *needlework*.

2 : the activity or art of making needlework ▪ She still enjoys doing *needlework*.

needn't /ˈniːdnt/ — used as a contraction of *need not* ▪ You *needn't* worry about me. I'll be fine.

needy /ˈniːdi/ *adj* **need•i•er; -est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : not having enough money, food, etc., to live properly : POOR ▪ *needy* families

2 : needing a lot of attention, affection, or emotional support ▪ As a child, she was extremely *needy* and had no self-confidence. ▪ emotionally *needy* adults

the needy : poor people ▪ Our church collected food for *the needy*.

– **need•i•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ emotional *neediness*

ne'er /ˈneɚ/ *adv, literary* : NEVER

ne'er–do–well /ˈneɚduˌwɛl/ *noun, pl* **-wells** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a lazy and worthless person ▪ a *ne'er-do-well* who

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hangs out at bars [=a person who goes to bars instead of working hard]
– **ne'er–do–well** *adj* ▪ She was abandoned by her *ne'er-do-well* [=*good-for-nothing*] father.

ne•far•i•ous /ni'ferijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : evil or immoral ▪ *nefarious* criminal activities ▪ a *nefarious* scheme to cheat people out of their money

neg. *abbr* negative

ne•gate /nɪ'geɪt/ *verb* **-gates**; **-gat•ed**; **-gat•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*
1 : to cause (something) to not be effective ▪ Alcohol *negates* the effects of the medicine. [=alcohol prevents the medicine from working] ▪ The fact that she lied about her work experience *negated* the contract.
2 *grammar* : to make (a word or phrase) negative ▪ a verb that is *negated* by "not"
– **ne•ga•tion** /nɪ'geɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** *formal* [*count*] — usually singular ▪ The jury's verdict was a *negation* of justice. [=the jury's verdict was unjust] [*noncount*] actions done in *negation* of the rules

[1]neg•a•tive /'nɛgətɪv/ *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : harmful or bad : not wanted ▪ Car exhaust has a *negative* effect/impact on the environment. ▪ the *negative* effects of the drug ▪ We had a very *negative* [=*unpleasant*] experience at the restaurant. — opposite POSITIVE
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : thinking about the bad qualities of someone or something : thinking that a bad result will happen : not hopeful or optimistic ▪ She has a *negative* attitude about the new plan. [=she only thinks about the things that can go wrong with the new plan] ▪ Why do you have such a *negative* outlook on the merger? [=why do you think the merger won't work?] ▪ "I know we're going to lose." "Don't be so *negative*." [=*pessimistic*] — opposite POSITIVE
3 a : expressing dislike or disapproval ▪ The reviews were mostly *negative*. [=*unfavorable*] ▪ The feedback about the new product was all *negative*. ▪ There are no *negative* feelings between us. [=we do not dislike each other] — opposite POSITIVE **b** : showing or talking about the bad qualities of someone or something ▪ The senator is running a *negative* campaign. [=a campaign that criticizes the other candidate instead of saying what good things the senator wants to do] ▪ *negative* advertising [=advertising that criticizes competitors]
4 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : expressing denial or refusal ▪ a *negative* reply/answer [=a reply of "no"] ▪ *negative* words like "no" and "not" ▪ "I didn't hear anything" is a *negative* phrase/construction/statement. — opposite AFFIRMATIVE
5 a *mathematics* : less than zero ▪ My checking account has a *negative* balance. ▪ -2 is a *negative* number. — opposite POSITIVE **b** : less than the amount of money spent or invested ▪ We got a *negative* return on the investment. [=we lost money on the investment] — opposite POSITIVE
6 *technical* **a** : containing or producing electricity that is charged by an electron ▪ a *negative* charge/current — opposite POSITIVE **b** : having more electrons than protons ▪ a *negative* particle — opposite POSITIVE
7 : not showing the presence of a particular germ, condition, or substance ▪ a *negative* HIV test ▪ Her pregnancy test was *negative*. [=her test showed that she was not pregnant] — opposite POSITIVE
– **neg•a•tive•ly** *adv* ▪ a *negatively* charged particle ▪ The patient reacted *negatively* to the new drug. [=the patient had harmful side effects from the drug] ▪ Customers responded *negatively* to the new product. [=customers did not like the new product]

[2]negative *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*]
1 : something that is harmful or bad ▪ One of the *negatives* [=*drawbacks*] of the house is that it's on a busy street. ▪ Since the positives outweigh the *negatives*, I'm going to take the job. [=there are more good things about the job than bad things] — opposite POSITIVE
2 : a word or statement that means "no" or that expresses a denial or refusal ▪ "No" and "not" are *negatives*. — see also DOUBLE NEGATIVE
3 : an image on film that is used to make a printed photograph and that has light areas where the photograph will be dark and dark areas where the photograph will be light; *also* : the film that has such an image ▪ Can I have the *negatives* to make copies of the photos? — compare POSITIVE
4 : the result from a test that shows that a particular germ, condition, or substance is not present ▪ There is a high rate of ***false negatives*** for this test. [=this test often incorrectly indicates that something is not present when it really is] — opposite POSITIVE
in the negative *formal* : with a reply that means "no" ▪ She answered (the question) *in the negative*. [=she answered "no"] — compare *in the affirmative* at [2]AFFIRMATIVE

negative equity *noun* [*noncount*] : a situation in which the amount of money that a person owes for something (such as a house or a car) is less than its worth

neg•a•tiv•i•ty /ˌnɛgə'tɪvəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an attitude in which someone considers only the bad qualities of someone or something ▪ Her *negativity* about society began to depress me. ▪ There is a lot of *negativity* about the new boss.

[1]ne•glect /nɪ'glɛkt/ *verb* **-glects**; **-glect•ed**; **-glect•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to fail to take care of or to give attention to (someone or something) ▪ The building has been *neglected* for years. ▪ She *neglects* her child. ▪ The city has *neglected* the teacher shortage for too long.
2 : to fail to do (something) ▪ The prison guard *neglected* his duty. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ He *neglected to mention* that he was fired. ▪ He *neglected to sign* the check.

[2]neglect *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : lack of attention or care that someone or something needs ▪ The park was overgrown and littered from years of *neglect*. ▪ The parents were charged with child *neglect*. — often + *of* ▪ the city's *neglect of* the homeless ▪ He was dismissed for *neglect of* duty. [=for not doing his duty]
2 : the condition of not being taken care of ▪ The house is in a state of *neglect*.

neglected *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not given enough attention or care ▪ *neglected* children ▪ a sadly *neglected* garden ▪ His wife felt *neglected*. [=she felt unhappy because she wanted him to pay more attention to her]

ne•glect•ful /nɪ'glɛktfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not giving enough care or attention to someone or something ▪ *neglectful* parents — often + *of* ▪ She is *neglectful of* her appearance/responsibilities. ▪ He is *neglectful of* what other people might think. [=he does not care about what other people might think]

neg•li•gee /ˌnɛglə'ʒeɪ/ *noun, pl* **-li•gees** [*count*] : a long piece of clothing made of a thin material (such as silk) that is worn in bed by women

neg•li•gence /'nɛglɪʤəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : failure to take the care that a responsible person usually takes : lack of normal care or attention ▪ Medical *negligence* may be the cause of death. [=the patient's death may have happened because the doctor did not do something that should have been done] ▪ The company was charged with *negligence* in the manufacturing of the defective tires.

neg•li•gent /'nɛglɪʤənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : failing to take proper or normal care of something or someone ▪ The fire was started by a *negligent* smoker. ▪ *negligent* parents ▪ He was *negligent* in not reporting the accident to the police. ▪ She was *negligent* about sending a thank-you note. [=she neglected to send a thank-you note]
– **neg•li•gent•ly** *adv* ▪ The defendant drove *negligently* and hit a pedestrian.

neg•li•gi•ble /'nɛglɪʤəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very small or unimportant ▪ A *negligible* amount of damage was done to the vehicle. ▪ The price difference was *negligible*.
– **neg•li•gi•bly** /'nɛglɪʤəbli/ *adv* ▪ The difference between the prices was *negligibly* small.

ne•go•tia•ble /nɪ'goʊʃijəbəl/ *adj*
1 : able to be discussed and changed before an agreement or decision is made ▪ The terms of the contract are *negotiable*. ▪ The price was not *negotiable*.
2 : able to be successfully traveled over ▪ a rough but *negotiable* road
3 *finance* : able to be passed from one person to another in return for something of equal value ▪ *negotiable* bonds/securities

ne•go•ti•ate /nɪ'goʊʃiˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing**
1 a : to discuss something formally in order to make an agreement [*no obj*] The customer wanted to *negotiate* over/about the price. ▪ She has good *negotiating* skills. — often + *with* or *for* ▪ The team is *negotiating with* the player's agent. ▪ Teachers are *negotiating for* higher salaries. [+ *obj*] She is *negotiating* a higher salary. [=she is trying to get a higher salary by negotiating] **b** [+ *obj*] : to agree on (something) by formally discussing it ▪ We *negotiated* a fair price/contract.
2 [+ *obj*] : to get over, through, or around (something) successfully ▪ The driver carefully *negotiated* the winding road.

negotiating table *noun*
the negotiating table — used to say that people are having

formal discussions in order to reach an agreement • The two sides in this dispute have returned to *the negotiating table*. [=they have begun to have discussions again] • They came to an agreement at *the negotiating table*. [=they came to an agreement after their discussions]

ne•go•ti•a•tion /nɪˌgoʊʃiˈeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** : a formal discussion between people who are trying to reach an agreement : an act of negotiating [*count*] We need a *negotiation* between the townspeople and mayor over the site of the new library. — usually plural • The buyer and seller are continuing *negotiations* on the sale price and repairs to the house. • *Negotiations* between the two governments have failed to produce an agreement. • *Negotiations* with the protesters began today. [*noncount*] She is skilled at *negotiation*. • The college president was against any *negotiation* with the students. • The contract is ***under negotiation***. [=the details of the contract are being discussed] • The price is ***open to negotiation***. [=the price has not been finally decided and can be discussed] • The team is ***in negotiation*** with the player. [=the team is discussing the details of a contract with the player]

ne•go•ti•a•tor /nɪˈgoʊʃiˌeɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : a person who is involved in formal financial or political discussions in order to try to reach an agreement • a skilled trade/labor *negotiator*

Ne•gro /ˈniːgroʊ/ *noun, pl* **-groes** [*count*] *old-fashioned + sometimes offensive* : a person who has dark skin and who belongs to a race of people who are originally from Africa
– **Negro** *adj, sometimes offensive*

neigh /ˈneɪ/ *verb* **neighs; neighed; neigh•ing** [*no obj*] *of a horse* : to make a loud, long sound • We heard the horses *neighing* in the stable. — compare WHINNY
– **neigh** *noun, pl* **neighs** [*count*] • We heard a distant *neigh*.

neigh•bor (*US*) *or Brit* **neigh•bour** /ˈneɪbɚ/ *noun, pl* **-bors** [*count*]
1 : a person who lives next to or near another person • We invited our friends and *neighbors*. • our ***next-door neighbors*** [=the people who live in the house next to us]
2 : a person or thing that is next to or near another • Please pass your paper to your *neighbor*. [=the person sitting next to you] • Canada is a *neighbor* of the U.S. • Venus is Earth's nearest *neighbor*.

neigh•bor•hood (*US*) *or Brit* **neigh•bour•hood** /ˈneɪbɚˌhʊd/ *noun, pl* **-hoods**
1 [*count*] : a section of a town or city • They bought a house in a beautiful/quiet *neighborhood*. — often used before another noun • the *neighborhood* school/park/children
2 [*noncount*] : the people who live near each other • The whole *neighborhood* heard about it.
in the neighborhood : in the area that is close to something • Is there a grocery store *in the neighborhood*? [=is there a grocery store close by?] • We might as well pay them a visit while we're *in the neighborhood*.
in the neighborhood of **1** : close to (a place) • An earthquake was reported somewhere *in the neighborhood of* southern California. **2** : close to or around (an amount) : ABOUT • The album sold *in the neighborhood of* 1,000 copies. • A house like this costs somewhere *in the neighborhood of* $200,000.

neighborhood watch (*US*) *or Brit* **neighbourhood watch** *noun* [*noncount*] : an organization of neighbors who pay special attention to each other's houses in order to prevent crime — often used before another noun • a *neighborhood watch* group/program

neigh•bor•ing (*US*) *or Brit* **neigh•bour•ing** /ˈneɪbərɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : near or next to something or someone • *neighboring* cities/countries • a *neighboring* building • people from (the) *neighboring* tribes

neigh•bor•ly (*US*) *or Brit* **neigh•bour•ly** /ˈneɪbəli/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : helpful and friendly • It was very *neighborly* [=*kind*] of you to help. • the importance of *neighborly* [=*friendly*] relations between countries • She was friendly in a *neighborly* way.
– **neigh•bor•li•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]nei•ther /ˈniːðɚ, ˈnaɪðɚ/ *adj* : not one or the other of two people or things • *Neither* answer is correct. [=both answers are wrong] • "Which answer is correct?" "*Neither* one." • *Neither* sweater fits her.

[2]neither *pronoun* : not the one and not the other of two people or things • *Neither* (of the two answers) is correct. • "Which one do you want?" "*Neither*, thanks." • *Neither* of them dances well. • There are two flashlights, *neither* of which works.

usage According to the rules of grammar, the pronoun *neither* is singular and requires a singular verb. • *Neither* is correct. However, in informal writing and speech, a plural verb is common when *neither* is followed by *of*. • *Neither of* the answers is/are correct. • *Neither of* them know/knows my friend.

[3]neither *conj*
1 — used with *nor* to indicate two or more people, things, actions, etc., about which something is not true • *Neither* my wife *nor* I can attend the party. • *Neither* wood *nor* plastic conducts heat like metal does. • I *neither* know *nor* care. • I'm *neither* happy *nor* sad. • She eats *neither* meat *nor* cheese. [=(more commonly) she does not eat meat or cheese] ✧ When *neither* and *nor* are used to join two subjects, the verb should agree with the subject that is closer to it. • *Neither* my father *nor* I am going to the meeting.
2 : also not — used after a negative statement • "I don't believe his story." "*Neither* do I." [=I also do not believe his story] • They didn't believe his story, and *neither* did I. • I did not believe his story, but *neither* did I believe hers.
me neither see [4]EITHER
neither here nor there see [1]HERE

ne•mе•sis /ˈnɛməsəs/ *noun, pl* **-ses** /-ˌsiːz/ [*count*] : an opponent or enemy that is very difficult to defeat • He will be playing his old *nemesis* for the championship.

neo- *prefix* : a new and different form of something that existed in the past (such as a theory, style, language, or philosophy) • *neo*-Darwinism • *neo*-Gothic • *neo*-Latin • *neo*classical

neo•clas•si•cal /ˌniːoʊˈklæsɪkəl/ *also* **neo•clas•sic** /ˌniːoʊˈklæsɪk/ *adj* : relating to a style of art or architecture like the ones found in ancient Greece or Rome • a building designed in a *neoclassical* style • The museum will be exhibiting paintings from the *neoclassical* movement.
– **neo•clas•si•cism** /ˌniːoʊˈklæsəˌsɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] • a painter who practiced *neoclassicism* in the late 18th century – **neo•clas•si•cist** /ˌniːoʊˈklæsəsɪst/ *noun, pl* **-cists** [*count*]

Neo•lith•ic /ˌniːjəˈlɪθɪk/ *adj* : of or relating to the time during the Stone Age when people used stone tools and began to grow crops, raise animals, and live together in large groups but did not read or write • *Neolithic* man/tribes/cave painters • the *Neolithic* age/period — compare PALEOLITHIC

ne•ol•o•gism /niˈɑːləˌʤɪzəm/ *noun, pl* **-gisms** [*count*] : a new word or expression or a new meaning of a word • scientific *neologisms* [=new scientific words]

[1]ne•on /ˈniːˌɑːn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of gas that is used in brightly colored electric signs and lights

[2]neon *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : using neon • flashing *neon* lights/signs
2 : extremely bright • *neon* yellow/green

neo•na•tal /ˌniːoʊˈneɪtl/ *adj, medical* : of, relating to, or taking care of babies in the first month after their birth • a *neonatal* intensive care unit • *neonatal* diseases

neo–Na•zi /ˌniːoʊˈnɑːtsi/ *noun, pl* **-zis** [*count*] : a person who belongs to a group that believes in the ideas and policies of Hitler's Nazis and that sometimes commits violent acts
– **neo–Nazi** *adj*

neo•phyte /ˈniːjəˌfaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-phytes** [*count*] *formal*
1 : a person who has just started learning or doing something : BEGINNER • a *neophyte* on computers • a political *neophyte* [=a person just starting in politics] — often used before another noun • a *neophyte* journalist
2 : a person who has recently joined a religious group

neph•ew /ˈnɛfju/ *noun, pl* **-ews** [*count*] : a son of your brother or sister — compare NIECE

nep•o•tism /ˈnɛpəˌtɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] *disapproving* : the unfair practice by a powerful person of giving jobs and other favors to relatives • *Nepotism* has hurt the company.

Nep•tune /ˈnɛpˌtuːn, *Brit* ˈnɛpˌtjuːn/ *noun* [*singular*] : the planet that is eighth in order from the sun

nerd /ˈnɚd/ *noun, pl* **nerds** [*count*] *informal + usually disapproving*
1 : a person who behaves awkwardly around other people and usually has unstylish clothes, hair, etc. • He dresses like a *nerd*.
2 : a person who is very interested in technical subjects, computers, etc. • My brother is a computer *nerd*. [=*geek*] • a grammar *nerd*
– **nerd•i•ness** /ˈnɚdinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] • She was embarrassed by her sister's *nerdiness*. – **nerd•ish** /ˈnɚdɪʃ/ *adj*

[*more* ~; *most* ~] • a *nerdish* teenager — **nerdy** /'nədi/ *adj* **nerd·i·er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] • She wears *nerdy* glasses. • He plays a *nerdy* scientist in the movie.

nerve /'nəv/ *noun, pl* **nerves**

1 [*count*] : one of the many thin parts that control movement and feeling by carrying messages between the brain and other parts of the body • The optic *nerve* in the eye allows you to see. • a condition affecting the *nerves* in her arm

2 [*noncount*] : courage that allows you to do something that is dangerous, difficult, or frightening • It takes a lot of *nerve* to start a new career. • He found/summoned the *nerve* to stand up to his boss. • I was going to ask her to the dance, but I lost my *nerve*.

3 [*singular, noncount*] : the rude attitude of someone who says or does things that make other people angry or upset • You have a lot of *nerve* to talk to me that way. • I can't believe she had the *nerve* to call me a liar. • "After making the mess, he didn't even offer to help clean it up." "What (a) *nerve*!"

4 *nerves* [*plural*] : feelings of being worried or nervous • The groom was overcome by *nerves* before his wedding. • The singer still suffers from *nerves* before a performance. • Her ***nerves were on edge*** [=she was nervous] before her exam. • I need a drink to ***steady/calm my nerves***. [=*relax*]

a bag/bundle of nerves *informal* : an extremely nervous person • He was *a bundle of nerves* before his speech.

get on someone's nerves : to become extremely annoying to someone • That car alarm is *getting on my nerves*.

hit/strike/touch a nerve : to make someone feel angry, upset, embarrassed, etc. • Something she said to him must have *hit/struck/touched a nerve*. I've never seen him so angry. • His controversial column might have *hit a* (raw/sensitive) *nerve* with some readers.

nerves of steel : an impressive ability to remain calm in dangerous or difficult situations • It takes *nerves of steel* to work in such a high-pressure job.

war of nerves : a situation in which people do or say things to make other people feel afraid or nervous about what will happen • The company and the union are engaged in a *war of nerves*, with each side threatening the other.

nerve cell *noun, pl* ~ **cells** [*count*] : NEURON

nerve center (*US*) *or Brit* **nerve centre** *noun, pl* ~ **-ters** [*count*] : a place from which the activities of an organization, system, etc., are controlled • the economic *nerve center* of a nation

nerve gas *noun* [*noncount*] : a poisonous gas that is used as a weapon in war

nerve–rack·ing *or* **nerve–wrack·ing** /'nəv,rækɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing a person to feel very nervous • The job interview was a *nerve-racking* experience. • She endured a *nerve-racking* wait for her test scores.

ner·vous /'nəvəs/ *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] **a** : having or showing feelings of being worried and afraid about what might happen • She is/feels *nervous* about her job interview. • All this waiting is making me *nervous*. • He gave a *nervous* glance at the clock. • a *nervous* smile • Before the wedding the bride's father was a ***nervous wreck***. [=he was extremely nervous] **b** : often or easily becoming worried and afraid about what might happen • His *nervous* mother is always worrying that something terrible will happen to him. • He has a *nervous* disposition. **c** : causing someone to feel worried and afraid : making someone nervous • It was a very *nervous* situation.

2 *always used before a noun* : of or relating to the nerves in your body • *nervous* tissue • She suffers from a *nervous* disorder/condition. : caused by or affected by nerves • He walked around with a *nervous* twitch. • He had a *nervous* habit of pulling at his hair. • The boy has a lot of *nervous* energy.

— **ner·vous·ly** *adv* • Dad paced *nervously* around the waiting room. — **ner·vous·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] • The student showed no sign of *nervousness*.

nervous breakdown *noun, pl* ~ **-downs** [*count*] : a sudden failure of mental health that makes someone unable to live normally • She had/suffered a *nervous breakdown* shortly after her sister's death. • He is on the verge of a *nervous breakdown*.

nervous Nel·lie *or* **nervous Nel·ly** /-'neli/ *or* **Nervous Nellie** *or* **Nervous Nelly** *noun, pl* ~ **Nel·lies** [*count*] *US, informal* : a very fearful or nervous person • My sister is a real *nervous Nellie* when it comes to flying.

nervous system *noun, pl* ~ **-tems** [*count*] : the system of nerves in your body that sends messages for controlling movement and feeling between the brain and the other parts of the body — see also CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

nervy /'nəvi/ *adj* **nerv·i·er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *informal*

1 *US, approving* : having or showing courage or confidence • a *nervy* performance in the play-offs • a *nervy* film director who's not afraid to take risks

2 *US, disapproving* — used to describe someone who says or does rude or shocking things that make other people angry or upset • She was *nervy* enough to criticize the food we served her. [=she had the nerve to criticize the food we served her]

3 *Brit* : feeling unpleasantly nervous or excited : not calm • The passengers were restless and *nervy* after the long flight. • Too much coffee makes me *nervy*.

-ness /nəs/ *noun combining form* : state : condition : quality • good*ness* • friendli*ness* • sick*ness* • fresh*ness*

[1]nest /'nest/ *noun, pl* **nests** [*count*]

1 a : the place where a bird lays its eggs and takes care of its young • The bird built a *nest* out of small twigs. • If you look closely, you can see a *nest* in that tree. **b** : a place where an animal or insect lives and usually lays eggs or takes care of its young • a *nest* of hornets • a turtle/squirrel *nest* — see also HORNET'S NEST

2 : a home where people live • They lived in a cozy little *nest* in the suburbs. • Their children will soon be ready to ***leave/flee the nest***. [=their children will soon be ready to move away from home] — see also LOVE NEST

3 : a group of objects that are made in different sizes that fit inside each other • a *nest* of boxes/tables

feather your (own) nest see [2]FEATHER

[2]nest *verb* **nests**; **nest·ed**; **nest·ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to build or live in a nest • Robins *nested* in the tree. • This area is a *nesting* ground/place/site for seagulls. [=this is a place where seagulls build nests and raise their young] • She studied the *nesting* habits of the turtle.

2 : to fit inside each other • The set of four chairs can *nest* into one stack. • The smaller bowl is designed to *nest* inside the larger one.

— **nest·er** /'nestə/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] • These birds are cliff *nesters*. — see also EMPTY NESTER

nest egg *noun, pl* ~ **eggs** [*count*] : an amount of money that is saved over a usually long period of time to pay for something in the future • They built up a *nest egg* for their son's college education.

nes·tle /'nesəl/ *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **nes·tles**; **nes·tled**; **nes·tling**

1 [*no obj*] : to lie comfortably close to or against someone or something • The puppy *nestled* (up) against the sleeping boy.

2 [+ *obj*] : to place (something) close to, next to, or within something • He *nestled* his head against his mother's shoulder. • She carefully *nestled* the hamster into its cage. — often used as *(be) nestled* • The vacation resort *was nestled* among the hills. • Campsites *were nestled* along the river. • His wife's head *was nestled* against his chest.

3 [*no obj*] : to land or settle softly into something • The fly ball *nestled* into the outfielder's glove.

nest·ling /'nestɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-lings** [*count*] : a young bird that is not yet able to fly away from the nest

[1]net /'net/ *noun, pl* **nets**

1 a [*count*] : a device that is used for catching or holding things or for keeping things out of a space and that is made of pieces of string, rope, wire, etc., woven together with spaces in between • He caught a fish in the *net*. • a butterfly *net* — often used figuratively • They were caught in a *net* [=*web*] of deception. — see picture at FISHING; see also MOSQUITO NET, SAFETY NET **b** [*noncount*] : the material used to make nets : NETTING • *net* curtains

2 [*count*] *sports* **a** : a net that is hung across the middle of a playing area in some games (such as tennis, badminton, or volleyball) • The ball barely went over the *net*. **b** : a net that is attached to a frame and that is used as the goal in some games (such as soccer, hockey, or basketball) • He shot the puck into the *net*. • The ball swished through the *net*.

3 *the Net* : the Internet • She likes to surf *the Net*. [=*the Web*] • doing business on *the Net*

cast/spread your net wide : to try many different things so that you will have the best chance of finding what you want • Companies are *casting their nets wide* in search of young, talented employees.

slip/fall through the net : to fail to be noticed or included with others • There are plenty of talented players who *slip*

through the net and never get to play professionally.
– compare [5]NET

[2]net *verb* **nets**; **net•ted**; **net•ting** [+ *obj*]
1 : to catch (something) in a net ▪ We *netted* nine fish during the trip. — often used figuratively ▪ The escaped convict was *netted* by police.
2 *sports* **a** : to hit (a ball) into the net during a game (such as tennis) ▪ She *netted* her first two serves. **b** : to score (a goal or point) by hitting, kicking, or shooting a ball or puck into a net ▪ He *netted* two goals in his first game. ▪ She *netted* 15 points in the first half.
– compare [4]NET

[3]net *also Brit* **nett** *adj, always used before a noun*
1 — used to describe the amount or value of something after all costs and expenses have been taken away ▪ They determined the *net* value of the estate. ▪ The company suffered a decline in *net* profit for the third quarter. ▪ a billionaire's *net* worth — compare [1]GROSS
2 — used to describe the weight of something without its packaging or container ▪ the *net* weight of the shipment
3 : after everything is completed ▪ The ***net result/outcome/effect*** of the new bridge will be fewer traffic jams.

[4]net *verb* **nets**; **netted**; **netting** [+ *obj*]
1 : to gain or receive (an amount) as a profit ▪ We *netted* $50 on the sale. — compare [4]GROSS
2 : to produce or get (something) as the result of an effort ▪ The investigation *netted* no clues. ▪ The running back *netted* 20 yards on his first run.
– compare [2]NET

[5]net *noun, pl* **nets** [*count*] : an amount that is left over after all costs and expenses have been taken away : a net amount ▪ The *net* is significantly lower than we had anticipated. — compare [5]GROSS — compare [1]NET

net•ball /ˈnɛtˌbɑːl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a sport played chiefly in Britain that is similar to basketball and has two teams of seven players each ✧ Netball is usually played by women and girls.

neth•er /ˈnɛðɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun, literary or humorous* : located toward the bottom or more distant part of something : LOWER ▪ Snakes nested in the *nether* reaches of the cave. [=snakes nested deep in the cave] ▪ His shorts fell down and exposed his ***nether parts/regions***. [=his genitals and buttocks]

neth•er•world /ˈnɛðɚˌwɚld/ *noun, pl* **-worlds**
1 ***the netherworld*** *literary* : the world of the dead : HELL
2 [*count*] : a place unknown to most people where secret and often illegal things are done — usually singular ▪ The book describes the author's journey into the *netherworld* of drug dealers. ▪ a criminal *netherworld*

net•i•quette /ˈnɛtɪkət/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : rules about the proper and polite way to communicate with other people when you are using the Internet ▪ Writing an e-mail message in all capital letters is considered a breach/violation of *netiquette* because it looks like you are shouting. ▪ the rules of *netiquette*

net•i•zen /ˈnɛtəzən/ *noun, pl* **-zens** [*count*] : a person who actively uses the Internet especially in a proper and responsible way

net•mind•er /ˈnɛtˌmaɪndɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : GOALKEEPER

nett *Brit spelling of* [3]NET

netting *noun* [*noncount*] : material consisting of pieces of string, rope, wire, etc., that are woven together with open spaces left in between : material that is used to make nets ▪ He put up wire *netting* around the garden.

[1]net•tle /ˈnɛtl/ *verb* **net•tles**; **net•tled**; **net•tling** [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) angry ▪ The mayor's recent actions have *nettled* some members of the community. ▪ It *nettles* him that his younger coworker got a promotion before he did.

[2]nettle *noun, pl* **nettles** [*count*] : a tall plant that has leaves with hairs that sting you if you touch them
grasp the nettle *Brit* : to deal with an unpleasant situation without delay ▪ He decided to *grasp the nettle* and try to solve the problem himself.

[1]net•work /ˈnɛtˌwɚk/ *noun, pl* **-works** [*count*]
1 a : a system of lines, wires, etc., that are connected to each other ▪ a telephone/rail *network* — often + *of* ▪ a *network of* blood vessels **b** : a system of computers and other devices (such as printers) that are connected to each other ▪ He hooked up his computer to the *network*.
2 : a group of people or organizations that are closely connected and that work with each other ▪ a volunteer *network* — often + *of* ▪ a *network of* political allies
3 : a group of radio or television stations that usually broadcast the same programs ▪ The show is getting good ratings for the *network*. ▪ a *network* news program

[2]network *verb* **-works**; **-worked**; **-work•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to connect (computers) in a way that allows information and equipment to be shared ▪ The computers are *networked* to one main server.
2 [*no obj*] : to talk with people whose jobs are similar to yours especially for business opportunities or advice ▪ She spent the day *networking* with other executives.
– **networking** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He did some *networking* at the conference. ▪ She attributes her success to *networking*.

neu•ral /ˈnʊrəl, *Brit* ˈnjʊərəl/ *adj, medical* : of, relating to, or involving a nerve or the nervous system ▪ She suffers from a *neural* disorder. ▪ *neural* activity/impulses ▪ the brain's *neural* pathways

neu•ral•gia /nʊˈrælʤə, *Brit* njʊˈrælʤə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a sharp pain that is felt along the length of a nerve
– **neu•ral•gic** /nʊˈrælʤɪk, *Brit* njʊˈrælʤɪk/ *adj* ▪ *neuralgic* pain

neu•rol•o•gy /nʊˈrɑːlədʒi, *Brit* njʊˈrɒlədʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : the scientific study of the nervous system and the diseases that affect it
– **neu•ro•log•i•cal** /ˌnʊrəˈlɑːʤɪkəl, *Brit* ˌnjʊrəˈlɒʤɪkəl/ *or chiefly US* **neu•ro•log•ic** /ˌnʊrəˈlɑːʤɪk, *Brit* ˌnjʊrəˈlɒʤɪk/ *adj* ▪ a *neurological* disorder – **neu•rol•o•gist** /nʊˈrɑːləʤɪst, *Brit* njʊˈrɒləʤɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*]

neu•ro•mus•cu•lar /ˌnʊroʊˈmʌskjələɚ, *Brit* ˌnjʊrəʊˈmʌskjələ/ *adj, medical* : relating to both nerves and muscles ▪ a *neuromuscular* disease

neu•ron /ˈnʊˌɑːn ˈnjʊərɒn/ *also Brit* **neu•rone** /ˈnʊˌoʊn, *Brit* ˈnjʊərəʊn/ *noun, pl* **-rons** [*count*] *medical* : a cell that carries messages between the brain and other parts of the body and that is the basic unit of the nervous system : NERVE CELL

neu•ro•sci•ence /ˌnʊroʊˈsajəns, *Brit* ˌnjʊərəʊˈsajəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the scientific study of nerves and especially of how nerves affect learning and behavior

neu•ro•sis /nʊˈroʊsəs, *Brit* njʊˈrəʊsəs/ *noun, pl* **-ses** /-ˌsiːz/ [*count, noncount*] *medical* : an emotional illness in which a person experiences strong feelings of fear or worry ▪ The patient is clearly suffering from (a) *neurosis*.

[1]neu•rot•ic /nʊˈrɑːtɪk, *Brit* njʊˈrɒtɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 *medical* : having or suggesting neurosis ▪ The psychiatrist diagnosed the patient as *neurotic*. ▪ *neurotic* symptoms
2 : often or always fearful or worried about something : tending to worry in a way that is not healthy or reasonable ▪ My *neurotic* mother scolded me for staying out 10 minutes past curfew. ▪ He is *neurotic* about his job. ▪ a *neurotic* personality
– **neu•rot•i•cal•ly** /nʊˈrɑːtɪkli, *Brit* njʊˈrɒtɪkli/ *adv* ▪ He was *neurotically* obsessed with keeping his clothes neat.

[2]neurotic *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*]
1 *medical* : a person who has a neurosis ▪ He was diagnosed as a *neurotic*.
2 : a person who is always fearful or worried about something ▪ He is a *neurotic* about keeping his clothes neat.

neu•ro•trans•mit•ter /ˌnʊroʊˌtrænsˈmɪtɚ, *Brit* ˌnjʊərəʊˌtrænsˈmɪtə/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] *medical* : a substance in the body that carries a signal from one nerve cell to another

[1]neu•ter /ˈnuːtɚ, *Brit* ˈnjuːtə/ *adj, grammar, in some languages* : of or belonging to the class of words (called a gender) that ordinarily includes most of the words referring to things that are neither masculine nor feminine ▪ The pronoun "it" is *neuter*. ▪ a *neuter* noun

[2]neuter *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to remove the sex organs from (an animal) ▪ She had her dog *neutered* by the veterinarian. ✧ *Neuter* usually refers to the action of removing the sex organs from a male animal, while *spay* usually refers to the action of removing the sex organs from a female animal.
2 *disapproving* : to make (something) much less powerful or effective ▪ The bill was *neutered* by the changes made by the legislature.

[1]neu•tral /ˈnuːtrəl, *Brit* ˈnjuːtrəl/ *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] **a** : not supporting either side of an argument, fight, war, etc. ▪ *neutral* countries ▪ He ***remained/stayed neutral*** while his brothers argued. **b** : not supporting one political view over another ▪ She tries to be a fair and *neutral* journalist. ▪ a *neutral* magazine
2 : not connected with either side involved in a war, contest,

etc. ▪ The battle took place in *neutral* waters. ▪ The duel will be held on *neutral* ground. ▪ *neutral* territory

3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not expressing strong opinions or feelings ▪ The report was written in *neutral* language. ▪ "Why did you do that?" he asked in a *neutral* tone of voice.

4 : not bright or strong in color : able to go easily with other colors ▪ They decorated the room in *neutral* tones/colors. ▪ a *neutral* gray ▪ *neutral* fabrics

5 *technical* : neither an acid nor a base ▪ a *neutral* compound ▪ a chemical with a *neutral* pH

6 *technical* : not having an electrical charge ▪ a *neutral* molecule

– **neu·tral·ly** *adv* ▪ The judge must try to view the dispute *neutrally*. ▪ *neutrally* charged atoms

²neutral *noun, pl* **-trals**

1 [*count*] : a color that is not bright or strong : a neutral color — usually plural ▪ She painted the room in *neutrals*.

2 [*noncount*] : the position of the gears in a car, truck, etc., when they do not touch each other and power from the engine does not move the wheels ▪ He put/left the car ***in neutral***.

3 [*count*] : a person, country, etc., that does not support either side of an argument, fight, war, etc. ▪ Their sister remained a *neutral* in the dispute. ▪ The two countries were *neutrals* while their neighbors were at war.

neu·tral·i·ty /nuˈtrælətɪ, *Brit* njuˈtrælətɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the quality or state of not supporting either side in an argument, fight, war, etc. : the quality or state of being neutral ▪ The country adopted an official policy of *neutrality*. ▪ The newspaper is known for its political *neutrality*.

neu·tral·ize *also Brit* **neu·tral·ise** /ˈnuːtrəˌlaɪz, *Brit* ˈnjuːtrəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-iz·es**; **-ized**; **-iz·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to stop (someone or something) from being effective or harmful ▪ The soldiers tried to *neutralize* the attack by dividing the invading army.

2 *technical* : to cause (a chemical) to be neither an acid nor a base ▪ This medicine *neutralizes* stomach acids.

3 : to make (something, such as a country or area) neutral during a war ▪ The lands between the warring countries were *neutralized*.

– **neu·tral·i·za·tion** *also Brit* **neu·tral·i·sa·tion** /ˌnuːtrələˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌnjuːtrəˌlaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

neutral zone *noun*

the neutral zone : the middle part of an ice hockey rink that is between the two zones defended by the teams

neu·tri·no /nuˈtriːnoʊ, *Brit* njʊˈtriːnəʊ/ *noun, pl* **-nos** [*count*] *physics* : a particle that is smaller than an atom and that has no electrical charge

neu·tron /ˈnuːˌtrɑːn, *Brit* ˈnjuːˌtrɒn/ *noun, pl* **-trons** [*count*] *physics* : a very small particle of matter that has no electrical charge and is part of the nucleus of all atoms except hydrogen atoms

neutron bomb *noun, pl* ~ **bombs** [*count*] : a nuclear bomb that releases very large amounts of radiation

nev·er /ˈnɛvɚ/ *adv*

1 : not ever : not at any time ▪ I will *never* shop at that store again. ▪ I have *never* seen that happen before. ▪ That man has *never* heard of you. ▪ We will *never* forget what we saw. ▪ You *never* know what you'll find at a flea market. ▪ I *never* meant to hurt you. ▪ She *never* really said that. ▪ There is *never* enough time to finish our work. ▪ *Never* in my whole life have I been so offended! ▪ A resume without a cover letter ***will never do***. [=will never be considered acceptable] ▪ ***Never again*** will I buy a car from that dealer. = I will *never again* buy a car from that dealer. ▪ I gave him my business for years and ***never for one moment*** did I suspect that he was a criminal. — opposite ALWAYS

2 *chiefly Brit* **a** — used to express surprise, doubt, or disbelief ▪ "He's won the lottery." "*Never*!" ▪ "They're getting married." "***Well, I never***! [=I am very surprised or shocked to hear that they're getting married]" **b** — used to say that you did not do something ▪ "You stole my CD." "Me? *Never*."

never ever see EVER

never fear — used to tell someone not to worry or be afraid ▪ *Never fear*, I think I have a solution.

never mind, never you mind see ²MIND

never say die see ¹DIE

never say never — used to say that you should not say that you will never do something because you might change your mind later ▪ "Would you ever go there again?" "Well, (I'll) *never say never*, but I'm certainly not planning to go there anytime soon!"

never so much as — used to say that someone did not do something that was expected or should have been done ▪ She *never so much as* thanked me [=she did not even thank me] for my help.

never the wiser see ¹WISE

never–ending *adj* : having or seeming to have no end : ENDLESS ▪ Keeping the house clean is a *never-ending* chore. ▪ the *never-ending* fight against poverty

nev·er·more /ˌnɛvɚˈmoɚ/ *adv, literary* : not happening again : never again ▪ *Nevermore* shall I call you a friend. [=I shall never call you a friend again; I no longer consider you to be a friend of mine]

nev·er–nev·er land /ˌnɛvɚˈnɛvɚ-/ *noun, pl* ~ **lands** [*count*] : an imaginary place without problems ▪ He daydreamed of a *never-never land* where people never had to go to work.

nev·er·the·less /ˌnɛvɚðəˈlɛs/ *adv* : in spite of what has just been said ▪ I had lost a lot of money in the poker game; *nevertheless* [=*however*], I decided to continue playing. ▪ Her date was a bit of a slob, but she had fun *nevertheless*. ▪ It was a predictable, but *nevertheless* funny, story.

¹new /ˈnuː, *Brit* ˈnjuː/ *adj* **new·er**; **-est**

1 a : not old : recently born, built, or created ▪ They visited the *new* library. ▪ She was looking for the *new* [=most recent] issue of the magazine. ▪ I saw their *new* baby for the first time. ▪ They planted *new* trees on the campus. ▪ a *new* kind of music **b** : not used by anyone else previously ▪ She couldn't afford a *new* car, so she bought a used one. ▪ He bought the car *new*. ▪ shiny *new* shoes ▪ This watch is *new*. — see also BRAND-NEW

2 a : recently bought, rented, etc. ▪ She is eager to see his *new* apartment/house/dog. **b** : having recently become someone's relative, friend, employee, etc. ▪ This is my *new* stepsister. ▪ the young man and his *new* wife ▪ Come meet our *newest* [=most recently hired] employee. ▪ I made a *new* friend today. **c** : recently added to an existing group, organization, etc. ▪ There was a *new* kid in school today. ▪ The union voted in 10 *new* members. ▪ The company created a *new* department to run its Web site. — often + *to* ▪ She is *new to* this school. ▪ Don't worry about it. You are still *new to* the job.

3 : replacing someone or something that came before ▪ The team has a *new* coach. ▪ Have you met his *new* girlfriend? ▪ He starts his *new* job on Monday. ▪ I like your *new* haircut. ▪ The tree is growing *new* leaves. ▪ Waiter, could I please have a *new* fork? This one is dirty.

4 : recently discovered or learned about : not known or experienced before ▪ Scientists discovered a *new* comet. ▪ a *new* species of fish ▪ The promotion gave her a *new* sense of optimism. ▪ This drug gives *new* hope to patients. ▪ This is a *new* experience for me. — often + *to* ▪ This kind of work is still *new to* me. [=I have been doing this kind of work for only a short time]

5 — used to describe a time, period, etc., that is beginning again and that is different from what came before ▪ A *new* day has begun. ▪ We are looking forward to the *new* year. ▪ A *new* semester starts in the fall. ▪ After college, he moved to the city to begin ***a new life***. [=a time in a person's life that is different in some important way from what came before]

6 : healthier or more energetic ▪ I felt like a *new* man/woman after my vacation.

(as) good as new *or* ***like new*** : in very good condition : like something that has recently been made ▪ He painted the bicycle, and now it's *as good as new*. ▪ Once the jewelry has been cleaned, it'll be *like new*.

new arrival see ARRIVAL

new kid on the block see ¹KID

pastures new see ¹PASTURE

the new : new things ▪ The band played a good mix of the old and *the new*.

turn over a new leaf see ¹LEAF

what else is new? see ²ELSE

what's new? *US, informal* — used as a friendly greeting ▪ Hey man, *what's new*?

– **new·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The couple admired the shiny *newness* of their remodeled kitchen.

²new *adv* : newly or recently — usually used in combination ▪ *new*-laid cement

New Age *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : of or relating to ways of thinking and living that are similar to those of older cultures and that have been accepted in recent times by a group of people in place of the usual be-

liefs and methods of modern society ▪ the *New Age* movement ▪ a *New Age* bookstore ▪ *New Age* spirituality

2 — used to describe a type of instrumental music that is usually soft and relaxing ▪ He likes to listen to *New Age* music. ▪ a *New Age* composer

– **New Age** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He likes to listen to *New Age*. ▪ the beginning of the *New Age* [=the New Age movement] – **New Ager** /-ˈeɪʤɚ/ *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] ▪ She's a *New Ager* who writes spiritual self-help books. – **New Agey** /-ˈeɪʤi/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ His apartment has a *New Agey* atmosphere.

new•bie /ˈnu:bi, *Brit* ˈnju:bi/ *noun, pl* **-bies** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* : a person who has recently started a particular activity ▪ She is a *newbie* on the Internet. = She's an Internet *newbie*. ▪ He is a *newbie* to local politics. ▪ a *newbie* [=*beginner*] chess player

[1]new•born /ˈnu:ˌboɚn, *Brit* ˈnju:ˌbɔ:n/ *adj, always used before a noun* : recently born ▪ a *newborn* baby/calf

[2]newborn *noun, pl* **newborn** *or* **new•borns** [*count*] : a person or animal that has recently been born : a newborn person or animal ▪ a mother goat and all of her *newborn*

New•burg *or* **New•burgh** /ˈnu:ˌbɚg, *Brit* ˈnju:ˌbə:g/ *adj, used after a noun* : served with a sauce that is made of cream, butter, sherry, and egg yolks ▪ lobster/shrimp *Newburg*

new•com•er /ˈnu:ˌkʌmɚ, *Brit* ˈnju:ˌkʌmə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a person who has recently arrived somewhere or who has recently started a new activity — often + *to* ▪ She is a *newcomer to* the city. ▪ My father is a relative *newcomer to* the world of computers.

2 : something new that has recently been added or created — often + *to* ▪ The word "chat room" is a relative *newcomer to* the English language. ▪ Our company is a *newcomer to* this market.

new•fan•gled /ˈnu:ˈfæŋgəld, *Brit* ˈnju:ˈfæŋgəld/ *adj, always used before a noun* : recently invented or developed and hard to understand ▪ His grandson owns all of the latest *newfangled* electronics. ▪ *newfangled* gadgets ▪ the *newfangled* speech used by teenagers

new•found /ˈnu:ˈfaʊnd, *Brit* ˈnju:ˈfaʊnd/ *adj, always used before a noun* : recently discovered, acquired, or achieved : newly found or gotten ▪ He is enjoying his *newfound* freedom. ▪ a *newfound* friend ▪ *newfound* fame

new•ly /ˈnu:li, *Brit* ˈnju:li/ *adv* : a short time ago : RECENTLY ▪ They are a *newly* married couple. ▪ That is a *newly* acquired habit. ▪ Here is where we keep the *newly* arrived merchandise. ▪ a *newly* discovered galaxy ▪ The room is *newly* painted.

new•ly•wed /ˈnu:liˌwɛd ˈnju:liˌwɛd/ *noun, pl* **-weds** [*count*] : a person who has recently married ▪ They took pictures of the happy *newlyweds*. ▪ a *newlywed* hotel suite [=a hotel suite for couples on their honeymoon]

new moon *noun, pl* ~ **moons** [*count*] : the moon when it is completely dark — compare FULL MOON, HALF-MOON

news /ˈnu:z, *Brit* ˈnju:z/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : new information or a report about something that has happened recently ▪ Do you have any *news* to report? ▪ I have some good *news*, and I have some bad *news*. ▪ Have you heard the good *news*? She's going to have a baby! ▪ What's the big/latest *news*? ▪ It was late summer when ***news of*** his death arrived. [=when we learned that he had died] ▪ We tried to ***break the news*** [=tell the bad news] to her gently. ▪ "The concert has been canceled." "Well, that ***is news to me***." [=I didn't know that; no one told me that] ▪ Lower ticket prices ***are good news for*** [=make things easier for] sports fans. ▪ We haven't heard from his teacher lately, but ***no news is good news***. [=if he was doing badly, his teacher would have told us]

2 [*noncount*] **a** : information that is reported in a newspaper, magazine, television news program, etc. ▪ local/international *news* ▪ The company has been ***in the news*** recently. ▪ and now this ***late-breaking news*** [=the most recent news of the day] ▪ ***front-page news*** [=important news that could be reported on the front page of a newspaper] — often used before another noun ▪ TV *news* reporters ▪ *news* stories/reports ▪ the *news* media ▪ a ***slow news day*** [=a day with little news to report] **b** *informal* : someone or something that is exciting and in the news ▪ She's big *news* here in the city. ▪ That band is ***old news***. = The band is ***yesterday's news***. [=that band isn't new or exciting anymore]

3 *the news* : a television news program ▪ We saw it on *the* evening/nightly *news*. ▪ *The* local *news* is on at 5:30.

have news for someone — used when you are making a definite and forceful statement that someone does not expect, know about, or agree with ▪ "You think you're going to win? Well, *I've got news for you*: you're not." ▪ People tell me that my business will never succeed. Well, I *have news for them*. I'm going to make a profit by the end of the year.

– see also BAD NEWS

news agency *noun, pl* ~ **-cies** [*count*] : an organization that collects and gives news to newspapers, magazines, television news programs, and radio stations — called also *press agency*

news•agent /ˈnu:zˌeɪʤənt, *Brit* ˈnju:zˌeɪʤənt/ *noun, pl* **-agents** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a person or shop that sells newspapers, magazines, and often paperback books

news•boy /ˈnu:zˌbɔɪ ˈnju:zˌbɔɪ/ *noun, pl* **-boys** [*count*] *chiefly US, old-fashioned* : a boy who sells or delivers newspapers

news•cast /ˈnu:zˌkæst, *Brit* ˈnju:zˌkɑ:st/ *noun, pl* **-casts** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a radio or television program that reports the news ▪ the nightly TV *newscast*

news•cast•er /ˈnu:zˌkæstɚ, *Brit* ˈnju:zˌkɑ:stə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a person who reports and sometimes discusses the news on a radio or television show — called also (*Brit*) *newsreader*

news conference *noun, pl* ~ **-ences** [*count*] : PRESS CONFERENCE ▪ The President will hold a *news conference* later today.

news flash *noun, pl* ~ **flash•es** [*count*] : a report on an important piece of news that is given in the middle of another television or radio show — often used ironically when you are saying something that is not new or surprising ▪ *News flash*! Your brother's late again!

news•group /ˈnu:zˌgrup, *Brit* ˈnju:zˌgru:p/ *noun, pl* **-groups** [*count*] : a place on the Internet where people can talk about a particular subject by reading and leaving messages ▪ I posted a message to a gardening *newsgroup*.

news•let•ter /ˈnu:zˌlɛtɚ, *Brit* ˈnju:zˌlɛtə/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a short written report that tells about the recent activities of an organization and that is sent to members of the organization ▪ the club's monthly *newsletter*

news•man /ˈnu:zmən, *Brit* ˈnju:zmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a person (usually a man) who gathers, reports, or comments on the news

news•pa•per /ˈnu:zˌpeɪpɚ, *Brit* ˈnju:zˌpeɪpə/ *noun, pl* **-pers**

1 [*count*] : a set of large sheets of paper that have news stories, information about local events, advertisements, etc., and that are folded together and sold every day or every week ▪ He likes to stay home and read the Sunday *newspaper*. [=*paper*] ▪ a daily/weekly *newspaper* — often used before another noun ▪ *newspaper* headlines/articles/columns/clippings ▪ a *newspaper* reporter/editor/columnist

2 [*noncount*] : the paper on which a newspaper is printed ▪ He used some *newspaper* to get the fire started.

3 [*count*] : a company that publishes a newspaper ▪ She worked for the *newspaper* for 20 years.

news•pa•per•man /ˈnu:zˌpeɪpɚˌmæn, *Brit* ˈnju:zˌpeɪpəˌmæn/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-ˌmɛn/ [*count*] : a person (usually a man) who works as a reporter for a newspaper

news•pa•per•wom•an /ˈnu:zˌpeɪpɚˌwʊmən, *Brit* ˈnju:zˌpeɪpəˌwʊmən/ *noun, pl* **-wom•en** /-ˌwɪmən/ [*count*] : a woman who works as a reporter for a newspaper

new•speak *or* **New•speak** /ˈnu:ˌspi:k, *Brit* ˈnju:ˌspi:k/ *noun* [*noncount*] *disapproving* : speech or writing that uses words in a way that changes their meaning especially to persuade people to think a certain way ▪ political *newspeak*

news•per•son /ˈnu:zˌpɚsn̩, *Brit* ˈnju:zˌpə:sn̩/ *noun, pl* **-peo•ple** [*count*] : a person who gathers, reports, or comments on the news : REPORTER

news•print /ˈnu:zˌprɪnt, *Brit* ˈnju:zˌprɪnt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the thin paper that is used for newspapers

news•read•er /ˈnu:zˌri:dɚ, *Brit* ˈnju:zˌri:də/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *Brit* : NEWSCASTER

news•reel /ˈnu:zˌri:l, *Brit* ˈnju:zˌri:l/ *noun, pl* **-reels** [*count*] : a short film that reported the news and that was shown in theaters in the past ▪ old *newsreels* from World War II

news•room /ˈnu:zˌru:m, *Brit* ˈnju:zˌru:m/ *noun, pl* **-rooms** [*count*] : an office where the news is prepared for a newspaper or a television or radio program

news•stand /ˈnu:zˌstænd, *Brit* ˈnju:zˌstænd/ *noun, pl* **-stands** [*count*] : a place (such as a small outdoor store) where newspapers and magazines are sold

news•wom•an /ˈnu:zˌwʊmən, *Brit* ˈnju:zˌwʊmən/ *noun, pl*

-wom•en /-ˌwɪmən/ [*count*] : a woman who gathers, reports, or comments on the news

news•wor•thy /ˈnu:zˌwəði, *Brit* ˈnju:zˌwə:ði/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : interesting or important enough to report as news ▪ a *newsworthy* story

newsy /ˈnu:zi, *Brit* ˈnju:zi/ *adj* **news•i•er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*] *informal* : containing or full of a lot of news ▪ I got a long *newsy* letter from her. ▪ a *newsy* magazine

newt /ˈnu:t, *Brit* ˈnju:t/ *noun, pl* **newts** [*count*] : a small animal that lives mostly in water and that has four short legs, a long, low body and tail, and soft, wet skin ▪ a bright orange *newt*

New Testament *noun*

the New Testament : the second part of the Christian Bible that describes the life of Jesus Christ and the lessons that he taught — compare OLD TESTAMENT

new wave *noun, pl* **~ waves**

1 [*count*] : a movement in which a group of people introduce new styles or ideas in art, music, politics, etc. — usually singular; often + *of* ▪ a *new wave of* feminism

2 *New Wave* [*noncount*] : a style of rock music that was popular especially in the 1970s and 1980s, has a strong beat, and uses many electronic instruments (such as keyboards) ▪ people who listened to punk, *New Wave*, or disco

3 [*noncount*] : a modern style of art, film, or fashion that tries to be very different or unusual often in a shocking way — often used before another noun ▪ *new wave* design/films

New World *noun*

the New World : North, Central, and South America, especially in the past ▪ Columbus reached *the New World* in 1492. — compare OLD WORLD

New Year *noun*

1 *or chiefly US* ***New Year's*** [*noncount*] : the first day of the year celebrated as a holiday; *especially* : NEW YEAR'S DAY ▪ Happy *New Year*! ▪ (*chiefly US*) a *New Year's* party = (*Brit*) a *New Year* party ▪ (*US*) the week between Christmas and *New Year's* = (*Brit*) the week between Christmas and *New Year*

2 *or* ***new year*** [*singular*] : the year that is about to start or that has just started — usually used with *the* ▪ They will welcome/greet *the New Year* with festivities. ▪ It's sure to be the best film of *the new year*. ▪ We stayed up past midnight on New Year's Eve to ***see the new year in***. [=to see the beginning of the new year] ▪ the ***Chinese New Year*** [=the new year according to the Chinese calendar] ▪ the ***Jewish New Year*** [=*Rosh Hashanah*]

New Year's Day *noun, pl* **~ Days** [*count, noncount*] : January 1 celebrated as a holiday : the first day of the year

New Year's Eve *noun, pl* **~ Eves** [*count, noncount*] : December 31 : the last day of the year; *especially* : the evening of December 31

New York minute *noun* [*singular*] *US, informal* : a very short amount of time ▪ He was down the stairs ***in a New York minute***. [=*in an instant; in a flash*]

[1]next /ˈnɛkst/ *adj*

1 : coming after this one : coming after the one that just came, happened, etc. ▪ the *next* day [=the day that comes after this day] ▪ Please turn to the *next* [=*following*] page. ▪ I'll see you *next* Monday. ▪ Are you coming this Thursday or *next* Thursday? [=are you coming on Thursday of this week or Thursday of next week?] ▪ *Next* year's party will be even better. ▪ For the *next* two years [=two years after this point], she did nothing but eat, sleep, and study. ▪ the very *next* thing that happened ▪ Can I help the *next* person in line? Who's *next*? ▪ We could hear people talking in the *next* room. ▪ At the *next* set of lights, turn left. ▪ *Next* stop, Los Angeles. ▪ I need the *next* size up. ▪ The *next* time we will see each other will be on our wedding day. ▪ ***Next time***, please remember to bring your books to class. ▪ ***in the next life*** [=in the afterlife; in the life that we may have after death] ▪ I slipped, and ***the next thing I knew*** [=right after that happened], I was lying face up on the ground.

2 : any other ▪ He said he's as willing to do it ***as the next man***. [=he's as willing as anyone else would be] ▪ She knew the answer as well ***as the next person***.

next to : almost but not quite ▪ It's *next to* [=*nearly, practically*] impossible to drive in this snow. ▪ You ate *next to* nothing at dinner. Aren't you hungry? ▪ We were ***next to last*** in line. [=there was one person or group behind us] ▪ He finished *next to last* in the race. ▪ the *next to last* day of our vacation [=the day immediately before the last day of our vacation]

[2]next *adv*

1 : in the time or place that follows or comes directly after someone or something : after this ▪ Open this present *next*. ▪ There's a small grocery store in town. The *next* closest store is 20 miles away. [=not including the store in town, the closest store is 20 miles away] ▪ What happens *next*? ▪ *Next*, I need to ask you a few questions about your family. ▪ You're up *next*. [=it's your turn]

2 : at the first time after this ▪ when we *next* see each other = when we see each other *next* = (*formal*) when *next* we see each other

next best see [1]BEST

next to **1** : at the side of (someone or something) ▪ I stood right *next to* [=*beside*] her. ▪ The house *next to* ours is for sale. ▪ He sat *next to* his grandmother. **2** : following or coming immediately after (someone or something) ▪ *Next to* [=*after, besides*] math, science was my worst subject in school. ▪ It's the most important news story *next to* the war. **3** : in comparison with (someone or something) ▪ *Next to* you, I'm wealthy.

[3]next *pronoun* [*noncount*] : a person or thing that immediately follows another person or thing : someone or something that is next ▪ Her first novel was good, but I hope her *next* will be even better. ▪ We'll meet the week ***after next***. [=we will meet on a day that is in the week after next week; we'll meet in about two weeks] — usually used with *the* ▪ We went from one store to *the next* looking for the new CD. ▪ She finished one project and began working on *the next*. ▪ Who will be *the next* to leave the company? ▪ All she does ***from one day to the next*** is complain. [=she complains all the time] ▪ I was ***the next to last*** person [=not the last person, but the person before the last person] in line.

next of kin : the person or people most closely related to you : your closest living relative or relatives (such as your husband, wife, child, parent, sister, or brother) ▪ We notified his *next of kin* of his death.

next door *adv*

1 a : in the next house, apartment, room, etc. ▪ The people (who live) *next door* own a very large dog. ▪ We've lived ***next door to*** [=*next to*] each other for the past 30 years. ▪ He/She seemed like ***the boy/girl next door***. [=like a wholesome young man/woman from a middle-class family] **b** : next to your or someone else's house, apartment, room, etc. ▪ He bought the house *next door*. ▪ I'll be staying in the room *next door*. ▪ Go *next door* [=to the house/apartment next door] and ask for a cup of sugar, please.

2 : in a place that is very close to something else ▪ Canada is right *next door* to the U.S.

next–door /ˈnɛkstˈdoə/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : living in the next house, apartment, room, etc. ▪ We've been ***next-door neighbors*** for the past 30 years.

2 : next to your or someone else's house, apartment, room, etc. ▪ the *next-door* house

nex•us /ˈnɛksəs/ *noun* [*singular*] *formal* : a relationship or connection between people or things — often + *between* or *of* ▪ the *nexus between* teachers and students ▪ the *nexus between* drugs, guns, and crime ▪ a *nexus of* money and politics

NFC *abbr, US* National Football Conference ✧ The *NFC* and the AFC make up the NFL.

NFL *abbr, US* National Football League ✧ The NFL is the major professional (American) football league in the U.S.

NGO *abbr* nongovernmental organization

NH *abbr* New Hampshire

NHL *abbr, US* National Hockey League ✧ The NHL is the major professional league for ice hockey in the U.S. and Canada.

ni•a•cin /ˈnajəsən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : a type of natural substance (called a vitamin) that is found in certain foods and that helps your body to be healthy

nib /ˈnɪb/ *noun, pl* **nibs** [*count*] : the pointed metal tip of a pen

[1]nib•ble /ˈnɪbəl/ *verb* **nib•bles; nib•bled; nib•bling**

1 : to eat slowly or with small bites [+ *obj*] We *nibbled* cheese and crackers. [*no obj*] We *nibbled* on some cheese and crackers before dinner. — often + *at* ▪ She felt a fish *nibble at* the end of her fishing line. ▪ Insects *nibbled at* the tree's leaves. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ He *nibbled* at the idea of changing careers [=he thought briefly about changing careers], but decided against it in the end.

2 [+ *obj*] : to bite (something) very gently ▪ He *nibbled* her ear.

nibble (away) at [*phrasal verb*] ***nibble (away) at (something)***

: to make (something) disappear or go away very slowly ▪ Police have been *nibbling (away) at* crime in the city for years. [=police have been very slowly reducing the amount of crime in the city]

²nibble *noun, pl* **nib•bles**

1 [*count*] : a small bite ▪ He felt a *nibble* on his fishing line. — often + *of* ▪ May I have a *nibble of* your sandwich?

2 [*count*] : an expression of interest in something ▪ We've gotten a couple of *nibbles* on our house [=a couple of people have said that they were thinking about buying our house], but nobody has made a serious offer for it yet.

3 *nibbles* [*plural*] *informal* : small things to eat before a meal or at a party : snacks or appetizers ▪ They served some delicious *nibbles* before dinner.

ni•cad *or* **Ni•Cad** /'naɪˌkæd/ *noun, pl* **-cads** [*count*] *technical* : a battery that contains the metals nickel and cadmium and that you can refill with electricity and use again

nice /'naɪs/ *adj* **nic•er; -est**

1 : giving pleasure or joy : good and enjoyable ▪ I hope you all had a *nice* time. ▪ What a *nice* [=*pleasant*] surprise! ▪ It's so *nice* to see you again. ▪ It's *nice* to be back home. ▪ It's *nice* to know that you're all right. ▪ It would be *nice* to try something different. ▪ We had a very *nice* dinner. ▪ It's supposed to be a *nice* day tomorrow. = The weather should be *nice* tomorrow. ▪ (*US*) Thank you. ***Have a nice day***! [=goodbye] ▪ "Hello, my name is Sara." "It's ***nice to meet you***, Sara." ▪ It's ***nice to see you***, Luis. How have you been? — often used with another adjective for emphasis ▪ a *nice* clear sky [=a sky that is nice because it is clear] ▪ *nice* green grass ▪ The hotel has *nice* big rooms. ▪ a *nice* fresh salad ▪ some *nice* hot soup ▪ The soup is *nice* and hot. ▪ Make sure your room's *nice* and clean. ▪ The library is always *nice* and quiet.

2 : attractive or of good quality ▪ *nice* restaurants ▪ a *nice* car/house ▪ She wears the *nicest* clothes. ▪ She looks *nice*. [=she is attractive] ▪ He looks *nice* in his new suit. ▪ It's a ***nice idea*** [=the idea is a good one], but I don't think it'll work.

3 : kind, polite, and friendly ▪ She is a really *nice* person. ▪ He's such a *nice* young man. ▪ He said some very *nice* things about you. ▪ It's *nice* of you to call. ▪ Try to be *nice* to each other, okay? ▪ That wasn't a very *nice* thing to do. ▪ How *nice* of you to remember my birthday! ▪ As they say, "*Nice* guys finish last." [=you must act in a selfish way if you want to win a competition] — see also MR. NICE GUY

4 : acting in a way that is correct according to social or moral rules : proper and well-behaved ▪ What's a *nice* girl like you doing in a place like this? ▪ They have such *nice* children.

5 : done very well ▪ That was a *nice* [=*great, outstanding*] shot! ▪ *Nice* work! ▪ They've done a *nice* job fixing up the house. — sometimes used in an ironic way to say that something was not good or not done well ▪ What a *nice* mess we've made of things! ▪ *Nice* try, but you're not going to trick me this time. ▪ You crashed her car? Oh, ***nice going***. [=that was a stupid thing to do]

6 *formal* : involving a small difference : difficult to notice or recognize ▪ There is a *nice* distinction between those two words.

make nice *US, informal* : to behave in a polite or friendly way toward other people even though you do not have kind or polite feelings towards them ▪ It's time to forget about the past and *make nice*.

nice and easy *informal* : in a way that is slow, careful, gentle, or easy ▪ The pilot brought the plane down *nice and easy*. ▪ She hit the ball *nice and easy*. [=without a lot of force] ▪ They broke him in *nice and easy*. [=*gently*]

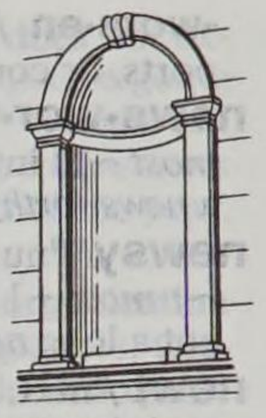
– **nice•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

nice–looking *adj* : pleasant to look at : ATTRACTIVE ▪ She's a *nice-looking* young lady.

nice•ly /'naɪsli/ *adv* [*more ~; most ~*] : in a pleasant or correct way : WELL ▪ a *nicely* dressed older man ▪ a very *nicely* written essay ▪ Good work. *Nicely* done. ▪ The project seems to be moving along *nicely*. ▪ I think her idea will fit *nicely* into/with our original plans. ▪ "I only have this screwdriver." "Thanks. It will ***do nicely***." [=it is suitable for what I want to do] ▪ Her new book is *doing nicely* in the bookstores. [=is selling well; is a success] ▪ He lives in New York City and ***is doing nicely for himself***. [=is earning a lot of money]

nice•ty /'naɪsəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*count*] : a small detail and especially one that is a part of polite or proper behavior — usually plural ▪ Our grandmother taught us the *niceties* of table manners. ▪ social/legal *niceties* ▪ the *niceties* of English grammar

niche /'nɪtʃ, 'ni:ʃ/ *noun, pl* **nich•es** [*count*]



niche

1 : a job, activity, etc., that is very suitable for someone ▪ I found a *niche* for myself after high school. ▪ She finally found her *niche* as a teacher.

2 : the situation in which a business's products or services can succeed by being sold to a particular kind or group of people — usually singular ▪ They're still trying to find their *niche* in the market/industry. ▪ This product ***fills a niche*** in the market. = This product *fills a* market *niche*. [=provides something that certain kinds of people want to buy] — often used before another noun ▪ Teenage girls are our *niche* market. [=are the people we can sell our products to] ▪ *niche* products/publications [=products/publications that appeal to a particular kind or group of people]

3 *technical* : an environment that has all the things that a particular plant or animal needs in order to live ▪ the species that fill an environmental/ecological *niche*

4 : a curved space in a wall that is designed to hold a statue, vase, etc.

¹nick /'nɪk/ *noun, pl* **nicks**

1 [*count*] **a** : a small broken area that appears on something after something else hits or cuts it ▪ There is a *nick* [=*chip*] in the cup. ▪ There are a couple of *nicks* on the painting. **b** : a small cut on your skin ▪ His face was covered with *nicks* and cuts after shaving.

2 *the nick* *Brit slang* : a prison or police station ▪ She spent a night in *the nick*.

3 [*noncount*] *Brit, informal* : the condition that someone or something is in ▪ I watched the team practice, and all the players looked ***in good nick***. [=*in good shape*] ▪ an economy ***in bad nick***

in the nick of time *informal* : just before the last moment when something can be changed or something bad will happen ▪ He decided to go just *in the nick of time*. ▪ The ambulance arrived *in the nick of time*.

²nick *verb* **nicks; nicked; nick•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to cut or damage a small part of the surface of (something) : to put a nick in (something) ▪ Something *nicked* [=*chipped*] the painting. **b** : to make a small cut on (someone) ▪ He *nicked* himself shaving. ▪ He was *nicked* on the shoulder by a bullet.

2 *Brit slang* **a** : to catch and arrest (someone) ▪ She was *nicked* for the theft. **b** : to steal (something) ▪ I *nicked* a couple of cars when I was younger.

nick•el /'nɪkəl/ *noun, pl* **-els**

1 [*noncount*] : a hard silver-white metal

2 [*count*] : a U.S. or Canadian coin that is worth five cents

¹nick•el–and–dime /ˌnɪkələn'daɪm/ *adj, always used before a noun, US, informal*

1 : involving, making, or spending a small amount of money ▪ *nickel-and-dime* charges/fees ▪ *nickel-and-dime* tax increases ▪ *nickel-and-dime* customers/tourists

2 : not very important ▪ *nickel-and-dime* [=*small-time*] businesses ▪ *nickel-and-dime* candidates

²nickel–and–dime *verb* **nick•els–and–dimes** *or* **nickel–and–dimes; nick•eled–and–dimed** *or* **nick•el–and–dimed; nickel•ing–and–dim•ing** *or* **nick•el–and–dim•ing** [+ *obj*] *US, informal + disapproving* : to make (someone) pay many small amounts of money over a long period of time ▪ Customers are being *nickeled-and-dimed* by the cell phone company. [=customers are being charged extra small fees by the cell phone company that will add up to a lot of money over time] ▪ You should buy a new car before this one *nickle-and-dimes* you to death. [=before you need to pay for a lot of repairs on this one]

¹nick•name /'nɪkˌneɪm/ *noun, pl* **-names** [*count*] : a name (such as "Moose" or "Lady Bird") that is different from your real name but is what your family, friends, etc., call you when they are talking to you or about you ▪ His mother gave him the *nickname* "Winky" when he was a baby. ▪ Earvin "Magic" Johnson got his *nickname* from the way he handled a basketball.

²nickname *verb* **-names; -named; -nam•ing** [+ *obj*] : to give (someone) a name that is not that person's real name : to give a nickname to (someone) ▪ She *nicknamed* him "Winky."

nic•o•tine /'nɪkəˌti:n/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a poisonous substance in tobacco that makes it difficult for people to stop smoking cigarettes

niece /ni:s/ *noun, pl* **niec•es** [*count*] : a daughter of your brother or sister ▪ If he's my uncle, then I'm his *niece*. — compare NEPHEW

nif•ty /'nɪfti/ *adj* **nif•ti•er**; **-est** *informal + somewhat old-fashioned* : very good, useful, or attractive ▪ a *nifty* pair of shoes ▪ This *nifty* little machine can do just about anything.

nig•gard•ly /'nɪgəɹdli/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal + disapproving*
1 : hating to spend money ▪ The story is about a *niggardly* [=*stingy, miserly*] old man who learns to share what he has with others.
2 : very small in amount ▪ a *niggardly* allowance/wage

nig•ger /'nɪgə/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*] *offensive* : a black person ✧ This is one of the most offensive words in English. Do not use this word.

[1]nig•gle /'nɪgəl/ *verb* **nig•gles**; **nig•gled**; **nig•gling** *Brit*
1 : to worry or annoy (someone) [+ *obj*] She had been *niggled* by worry her entire life. ▪ It really *niggles* [=*bothers, bugs*] me that she didn't call. [*no obj*] — often + *at* ▪ One question continued to *niggle* [=*nag*] *at* him.
2 [*no obj*] : to argue or make criticisms about something that is not important ▪ He's always *niggling* over small details.

[2]niggle *noun, pl* **nig•gles** [*count*] *chiefly Brit*
1 : a slight feeling of something (such as doubt) ▪ a *niggle of* doubt
2 : a slight pain ▪ I've had a knee *niggle* for the past few days. ▪ He has a bit of a *niggle* in his back.
3 : a small criticism or complaint ▪ I have a few minor *niggles* about the performance.

nig•gling /'nɪgəlɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : causing you to feel a slight pain or to be worried or annoyed for a long time ▪ *niggling* [=*nagging*] injuries that just won't heal ▪ a *niggling* doubt

nigh /'naɪ/ *adv, old-fashioned + literary*
1 : close in time or place : NEAR ▪ The snow is melting. Spring is *nigh*. ▪ Morning was drawing *nigh*. [=it was almost morning] ▪ The end is *nigh*.
2 : almost or nearly ▪ It would be *nigh* impossible to fix it. ▪ a *nigh* perfect evening — often + *on, onto*, or *unto* ▪ We've lived here for *nigh on* 40 years. [=almost 40 years] ▪ *nigh onto* a century — see also WELL-NIGH

[1]night /'naɪt/ *noun, pl* **nights**
1 : the time of darkness between one day and the next : the part of the day when no light from the sun can be seen and most people and animals sleep [*noncount*] Who are you calling at this time of *night*? ▪ It's eleven o'clock ***at night***. ▪ She and her husband both work *at night* and sleep during the day. ▪ The store's open ***all night***. ▪ They were up ***all night long*** playing video games. ▪ People keep coming back ***night after night***. [=every night for a period of time] [*count*] Let's stop for the *night* and get a hotel. ▪ a cold, rainy *night* in the city ▪ Where were you (on) the *night* of June 20th? ▪ The room costs $100 a/per *night*. = The room costs $100 for one *night*. ▪ I stayed up late five *nights* in a row. ▪ We were woken up ***in the middle of the night*** by a loud crash. = (less commonly) We were woken up ***in the dead of night*** by a loud crash. ▪ Did you have a ***good night's sleep***? [=did you sleep well during the night?] ▪ ***Last night***, I had the strangest dream. ▪ I had a ***late night*** [=I stayed up very late] last night. ▪ Let's ***call it an early night***. = Let's ***make an early night of it***. [=let's go home or go to bed early tonight] ▪ Let's ***call it a night***. [=let's go home or go to bed now] ▪ She'll have to ***spend/stay the night*** in the hospital. [=she will have to sleep overnight in the hospital] ▪ He *spent* many sleepless *nights* worrying about his children. [=he lay awake at night worrying about his children] ▪ *Spend* six *nights* and seven days on a tropical island in the Caribbean! ▪ He ***spent the night with*** [=had sex with and slept with] her. ▪ They decided to ***spend the night together***. [=they decided to have sex and sleep together]
2 [*noncount*] : the darkness that occurs during the nighttime ▪ They walked out into the *night*. ▪ Her eyes were as black/dark as (the) *night*. ▪ animals that hunt ***by night*** [=in darkness] ▪ When ***night fell*** [=when the sky became dark for the night; at nightfall], we walked back to our car.
3 [*count*] : the final part of the day that is usually after work, school, etc., and before you go to bed : the early part of the night : EVENING ▪ They go bowling every Tuesday *night*. ▪ Friday *nights*, we play cards with the neighbors. ▪ What did you have for dinner last *night*? ▪ He planned a *night* of dinner and dancing. ▪ We've planned a ***night out***. [=an evening that you spend outside of your home doing something fun]
4 [*count*] **a** : an evening or night that has a special event ▪ Poetry *night* [=the night when people read poetry aloud] at the café is every Saturday at eight o'clock. ▪ Wednesday night is our family *night*. [=the night that our family does things together] ▪ Tuesday night is ***ladies' night*** at the ballpark/bar. [=on Tuesday evening, women get a special benefit at the ballpark/bar, such as paying only half price for something] ▪ Tomorrow is the play's ***opening night***. [=the play will be performed in front of an audience for the first time tomorrow night] **b** : the part of a special day that occurs during the nighttime ▪ Christmas *night* ▪ They spent their wedding *night* in a hotel. — compare EVE 2

day and night *or* ***night and day*** see DAY

night night *or* ***nighty night*** — used by a child or when speaking to a child as a way of saying "good night" ▪ "*Night night*, dear." "*Nighty night*, Mommy."

the still of the night see [4]STILL

– see also ALL-NIGHT, FLY-BY-NIGHT, GOOD NIGHT, ONE-NIGHT STAND

[2]night *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : of or relating to the night ▪ the *night* sky ▪ the cool *night* air ▪ during the *night* hours
2 : for use at night ▪ a *night* lamp ▪ an animal with excellent ***night vision*** [=ability to see in the dark]
3 a : happening at night ▪ He is taking a *night* flight. ▪ a *night* game/class [=a game/class in the evening] **b** : active, working, or operating at night ▪ a *night* manager at the supermarket ▪ This is the last *night* bus/train. ▪ I am a ***night person***. [=a person who likes the night; a person who has the most energy at night]

night•cap /'naɪtˌkæp/ *noun, pl* **-caps** [*count*]
1 : a drink that you have just before you go to bed at night and that usually has alcohol in it
2 : a cloth cap that people used to wear in bed in the past

night•clothes /'naɪtˌkloʊðz, 'naɪtˌkloʊz/ *noun* [*plural*] *old-fashioned* : clothes that people wear in bed

night•club /'naɪtˌklʌb/ *noun, pl* **-clubs** [*count*] : a place that is open at night, has music, dancing, or a show, and usually serves alcoholic drinks and food ▪ He's performed his comedy show in *nightclubs* [=*clubs*] across the country.

night crawler *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *US* : EARTHWORM

night depository *noun, pl* ~ **-to•ries** [*count*] *US* : a special box built into the side of a bank that allows a customer to put money, valuable things, etc., in a safe place when the bank is closed — called also (*Brit*) *night safe*

night•dress /'naɪtˌdrɛs/ *noun, pl* **-dress•es** [*count*] *Brit* : NIGHTGOWN

night•fall /'naɪtˌfɑ:l/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the time of day when the sky gets dark : the time when night begins ▪ When *nightfall* came, we were still waiting for the electricity to come back on. ▪ We should be back by/before *nightfall*. [=*dark*]

night•gown /'naɪtˌgaʊn/ *noun, pl* **-gowns** [*count*] : a loose dress that is worn in bed especially by women and girls — see color picture on page C12

night•ie /'naɪti/ *noun, pl* **-ies** [*count*] *informal* : NIGHTGOWN; *especially, US* : a sexy and often short nightgown that is worn by women

night•in•gale /'naɪtnˌgeɪl/ *noun, pl* **-gales** [*count*] : a small brown European bird that sings a beautiful song especially at night

night•life /'naɪtˌlaɪf/ *noun* [*noncount*] : social activities and forms of entertainment that are available at night in bars, nightclubs, etc. ▪ The city is famous for its *nightlife*.

night•light /'naɪtˌlaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-lights** [*count*] : a small light that is on during the night ▪ We keep a *nightlight* on in the baby's room.

[1]night•ly /'naɪtli/ *adj* : happening or done every night ▪ There were *nightly* attacks on the city. ▪ a *nightly* event ▪ the *nightly* news ▪ These clubs provide *nightly* entertainment. ▪ She asked me about it ***on a nightly basis***. [=every night]

[2]nightly *adv* : every night ▪ She performs at the club *nightly*. ▪ The restaurant serves dinner *nightly*.

night•mare /'naɪtˌmeɚ/ *noun, pl* **-mares** [*count*]
1 : a dream that frightens a sleeping person : a very bad dream ▪ Mommy, I had a really scary *nightmare*. ▪ She had a recurring *nightmare* [=she had the same bad dream many times] about losing her job.
2 : a very bad or frightening experience or situation ▪ The party was a complete *nightmare*. ▪ a *nightmare* situation/scenario ▪ Losing a child is every parent's ***worst nightmare***. [=the thing every parent fears most]

– **night•mar•ish** /'naɪtˌmerɪʃ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ a *nightmarish* experience

night owl *noun, pl* ~ **owls** [*count*] *informal* : a person who enjoys staying up late at night

nights /ˈnaɪts/ *adv, chiefly US* : at night : during the nighttime ▪ He works *nights* and weekends. ▪ *Nights*, we usually watch TV. — compare DAYS

night safe *noun, pl* ~ **safes** [*count*] *Brit* : NIGHT DEPOSITORY

night school *noun* [*noncount*] : high school or college classes that are taught at night for people who work during the day ▪ You could go to *night school* and earn a degree.

night shift *noun, pl* ~ **shifts** [*count*]
1 : a period of time during the night (such as from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.) in which a person is scheduled to work — usually singular ▪ He works the *night shift* [=(*US*) *graveyard shift*] and sleeps during the day.
2 : a group of people who work during the night shift — usually singular ▪ The *night shift* is starting to arrive.

night•shirt /ˈnaɪtˌʃɚt/ *noun, pl* **-shirts** [*count*] : a long, loose shirt that you wear in bed

night•spot /ˈnaɪtˌspɑːt/ *noun, pl* **-spots** [*count*] : NIGHTCLUB

night•stand /ˈnaɪtˌstænd/ *noun, pl* **-stands** [*count*] *US* : a small table that is next to a bed — called also *night table*

night•stick /ˈnaɪtˌstɪk/ *noun, pl* **-sticks** [*count*] *US* : a heavy stick that is carried by police officers and is used as a weapon — called also *baton*, (*US*) *billy club*, (*Brit*) *truncheon*

night•time /ˈnaɪtˌtaɪm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the time of darkness between one day and the next : the time of day when no light from the sun can be seen ▪ It's not safe to go out at *nighttime*. [=(more commonly) *night*] ▪ The animal hunts in the *nighttime*. — often used before another noun ▪ *nighttime* temperatures ▪ a *nighttime* attack

night watchman *noun, pl* ~ **-men** [*count*] : a person whose job is to watch and guard property at night

NIH *abbr* National Institutes of Health ✧ In the U.S., the National Institutes of Health is a branch of government that pays doctors and scientists to do medical research.

ni•hil•ism /ˈnajəˌlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal*
1 : the belief that traditional morals, ideas, beliefs, etc., have no worth or value
2 : the belief that a society's political and social institutions are so bad that they should be destroyed
– **ni•hil•ist** /ˈnajəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] – **ni•hil•is•tic** /ˌnajəˈlɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *nihilistic* vision of the world ▪ *nihilistic* people

-nik /-ˌnɪk/ *noun suffix, informal + often disapproving* : a person connected to an activity, an organization, a movement, etc. ▪ a peace*nik* [=a person who is opposed to war] ▪ (*US*) a neat*nik* [=a very neat person]

nil /ˈnɪl/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : none at all : ZERO ▪ The chances of that happening are practically/almost *nil*. [=*nothing*]
2 *Brit* : a score of zero ▪ They took a 2 to *nil* lead in the second half of the game.

nim•ble /ˈnɪmbəl/ *adj* **nim•bler**; **nim•blest** [*or more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : able to move quickly, easily, and lightly ▪ a *nimble* [=*agile*] dancer ▪ the pianist's *nimble* fingers
2 : able to learn and understand things quickly and easily ▪ a *nimble* [=*quick, clever*] mind
– **nim•bly** /ˈnɪmbli/ *adv* ▪ She ran *nimbly* up the stairs.

nim•bus /ˈnɪmbəs/ *noun, pl* **-bus•es** [*count*] *formal + literary* : a circle of light : HALO

NIMBY /ˈnɪmbi/ *adj, always used before a noun* — used to describe the attitude and actions of people who try to prevent something (such as a prison or a shelter for homeless people) from being built near the place where they live ✧ *NIMBY* comes from the phrase "*n*ot *i*n *m*y *b*ack *y*ard." ▪ News about toxic leaks from old landfills has resulted in the *NIMBY* syndrome. [=nobody wants a new landfill built nearby, because landfills in other places have poisoned people] ▪ *NIMBY* issues/pressures

NIMH *abbr* National Institute of Mental Health ✧ In the U.S., the National Institute of Mental Health supplies money for research about mental illness.

nim•rod /ˈnɪmˌrɑːd/ *noun, pl* **-rods** [*count*] *US slang*
1 : a foolish or stupid person ▪ Don't be such a *nimrod*.
2 : a person who hunts wild animals : HUNTER

nin•com•poop /ˈnɪnkəmˌpuːp/ *noun, pl* **-poops** [*count*] *informal* : a foolish or stupid person ▪ The people running that company are a bunch of *nincompoops*!

nine /ˈnaɪn/ *noun, pl* **nines**
1 [*count*] : the number 9
2 [*count*] : the ninth in a set or series ▪ The next card was the *nine* of diamonds. ▪ She wears a size *nine*.
3 [*noncount*] : nine o'clock ▪ "What time is it?" "It's *nine*." ▪ He woke up at *nine* this morning. ▪ a ***nine-to-five job*** [=a job that you work during regular business hours usually in an office]
4 [*count*] : the first or last nine holes of an 18-hole golf course — usually singular ▪ She didn't play well on the ***front nine*** [=on holes 1 through 9], but she was one under par on the ***back nine***. [=on holes 10 through 18]
on cloud nine see ¹CLOUD
the whole nine yards see ²YARD
to the nines : in a very fancy or impressive way ▪ He was dressed *to the nines*.
– **nine** *adj* ▪ It took us *nine* hours to get there. – **nine** *pronoun* ▪ I would like *nine* (of them), please. ▪ *Nine* out of 10 [=90 percent of] doctors agree that this treatment works.

nine days' wonder *or* **nine day wonder** *noun* [*singular*] *chiefly Brit, somewhat old-fashioned* : something (such as a news story) that people talk about a lot but only for a short time ▪ She left her husband and ran away with a younger man. It was a *nine days' wonder*.

nine•teen /ˌnaɪnˈtiːn/ *noun, pl* **-teens** [*count*] : the number 19
– **nineteen** *adj* ▪ *nineteen* hours – **nineteen** *pronoun* ▪ She bought *nineteen* (of them). – **nine•teenth** /ˌnaɪnˈtiːnθ/ *noun, pl* **-teenths** [*count*] ▪ The book is due back on the *nineteenth* (of the month). ▪ one *nineteenth* of the total cost
– **nineteenth** *adj* ▪ He was the country's *nineteenth* president. ▪ I was the *nineteenth* person to cross the finish line. ▪ (*humorous*) the ***nineteenth hole*** [=the bar at a golf course where players drink after playing a round of 18 holes of golf] – **nineteenth** *adv* ▪ She finished *nineteenth* in the race. ▪ the country's *nineteenth* largest state

nine•ty /ˈnaɪnti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**
1 [*count*] : the number 90
2 ***nine•ties*** [*plural*] **a** : the numbers ranging from 90 to 99 ▪ temperatures in the *nineties* ▪ It was priced in the low *nineties*. [=its price was about $91,000–$93,000] **b** : a set of years ending in digits ranging from 90 to 99 ▪ I studied there in the *nineties*. [=between 1990–1999] ▪ During the *nineties*, he was going to college and working part-time. ▪ He lived into his *nineties*. [=he was over ninety years old when he died]
– **nine•ti•eth** /ˈnaɪntijəθ/ *noun, pl* **-eths** [*count*] ▪ one *ninetieth* of the total cost – **ninetieth** *adj* ▪ her *ninetieth* birthday – **ninety** *adj* ▪ *ninety* dollars – **ninety** *pronoun* ▪ We spent thirty dollars and had *ninety* left.

nin•ja /ˈnɪnʤə/ *noun, pl* **ninja** *also* **nin•jas** [*count*] : a fighter who is trained in the Japanese martial arts

nin•ny /ˈnɪni/ *noun, pl* **-nies** [*count*] *informal + somewhat old-fashioned* : a foolish or stupid person

¹ninth /ˈnaɪnθ/ *noun, pl* **ninths**
1 [*singular*] : the number nine in a series ▪ We'll be leaving on the *ninth*. [=the ninth day of the month] ▪ He hit a home run in the *ninth*. [=the ninth inning of a baseball game]
2 [*count*] : one of nine equal parts of something ▪ She owned one *ninth* of the company.

²ninth *adj* : occupying the number nine position in a series ▪ on the *ninth* day ▪ the book's *ninth* edition ▪ She's in (the) *ninth* grade at school.
– **ninth** *adv* ▪ He finished *ninth* in the race. ▪ the country's *ninth* largest city

¹nip /ˈnɪp/ *verb* **nips**; **nipped**; **nip•ping**
1 : to bite or pinch (someone or something) lightly [+ *obj*] The dog *nipped* my ankles. [*no obj*] — + *at* ▪ The dog *nipped at* my ankles.
2 [+ *obj*] *US, sports* : to defeat (someone or something) by a small amount ▪ The New York Mets *nipped* the Atlanta Braves 1–0.
3 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : to go to a place quickly or for a short period of time ▪ I had to *nip* back to my place. ▪ He *nipped* in ahead of me in line. ▪ He *nipped* into the store to buy milk.
4 : to harm or hurt (something) with cold [+ *obj*] An early frost *nipped* the crops. ▪ The cold wind was *nipping* my nose. [*no obj*] — + *at* ▪ The cold wind *nipped at* my nose.
nip off [*phrasal verb*] ***nip off (something) or nip (something) off*** : to remove (something) by squeezing it tightly between your fingers or the parts of a tool ▪ He *nipped off* the bud

with his fingers. ▪ She *nipped* the dead branches *off* with her clippers.

nip (something) in the bud *informal* : to stop (something) immediately so that it does not become a worse problem ▪ Inflation will only get worse if the government doesn't do something right now to *nip it in the bud*.

[2]nip *noun, pl* **nips**

1 [*singular*] : a feeling of cold ▪ I could feel the *nip* [=*coldness*] in the air.

2 [*count*] : a light bite or pinch ▪ The dog ***gave me a nip*** on the leg.

– compare [3]NIP

[3]nip *noun, pl* **nips** [*count*]

1 *informal* : a small amount of liquor ▪ a *nip* of whiskey ▪ He ***takes a nip*** now and then.

2 : a very small bottle of liquor

– compare [2]NIP

nip and tuck *adj, US, of a race or other competition* : so close that the lead changes quickly and very often from one person or team to another ▪ The race was *nip and tuck* for a while.

– **nip and tuck** *adv* ▪ The candidates were running *nip and tuck* early in the campaign.

nip•per /ˈnɪpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-pers**

1 ***nippers*** [*plural*] : a device or tool that is used for cutting something ▪ She used the *nippers* to prune the bush.

2 [*count*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : a small child ▪ when I was just a *nipper*

nip•ple /ˈnɪpəl/ *noun, pl* **nip•ples** [*count*]

1 : either one of the two small, round parts on a person's chest that are darker in color than the area around them — see picture at HUMAN

2 *US* : a rubber or plastic device that is attached to a bottle and that has a small opening from which a baby can suck milk — called also (*Brit*) *teat*

nip•py /ˈnɪpi/ *adj* **nip•pi•er**; **-est** *informal*

1 : somewhat cold : CHILLY ▪ a *nippy* morning

2 *Brit* : able to move quickly : FAST ▪ a *nippy* car

nir•va•na /nɪɚˈvɑːnə, nəˈvɑːnə/ *noun, pl* **-nas**

1 [*noncount*] : the state of perfect happiness and peace in Buddhism where there is release from all forms of suffering

2 : a state or place of great happiness and peace [*count*] — usually singular ▪ The island is a *nirvana* for divers. [*noncount*] Spending the afternoon at the museum was her idea of *nirvana*. [=*paradise, heaven*]

nit /ˈnɪt/ *noun, pl* **nits** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : a stupid or silly person : NITWIT

nit•pick•ing /ˈnɪtˌpɪkɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal + disapproving* : the act of arguing about details that are not important or criticizing small mistakes that are not important ▪ She was tired of all the *nitpicking* and wanted to get on with the project.

– **nit•pick•er** /ˈnɪtˌpɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ *Nitpickers* might question his choice of words, but his point was worth making.

ni•trate /ˈnaɪˌtreɪt/ *noun, pl* **-trates** [*count, noncount*] : a chemical compound that contains oxygen and nitrogen and that is used in fertilizer

ni•tric acid /ˈnaɪtrɪk-/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a strong acid that contains nitrogen and that is used in making fertilizers, explosives, etc.

ni•tro•gen /ˈnaɪtrədʒən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a chemical that has no color or smell and that makes up a large part of the atmosphere

ni•tro•glyc•er•in *or* **ni•tro•glyc•er•ine** /ˌnaɪtrəˈglɪsərən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a liquid that is used in making explosives and in medicine

ni•trous oxide /ˈnaɪtrəs-/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a gas that is used by dentists to keep patients from feeling pain — called also *laughing gas*

nit•ty–grit•ty /ˈnɪtiˌgrɪti/ *noun*

the nitty-gritty *informal* : the most important and basic facts or details about something ▪ He deals with *the nitty-gritty* of running the department. ▪ We finally ***got down to the nitty-gritty*** of the problem. ▪ Let's *get down to the nitty-gritty* and find out what happened.

nit•wit /ˈnɪtˌwɪt/ *noun, pl* **-wits** [*count*] *informal* : a stupid or silly person ▪ Don't be such a *nitwit*.

[1]nix /ˈnɪks/ *verb* **nix•es**; **nixed**; **nix•ing** [+ *obj*] *US, informal* : to refuse to accept or allow (something) : to say no to (something, such as a suggestion or plan) ▪ We quickly *nixed* [=*rejected*] his idea.

[2]nix *adv, US, informal + somewhat old-fashioned* : [1]NO — used to show that you disagree with or will not allow something; often + *on* ▪ They put a *nix on* our plan. [=they rejected our plan]

NJ *abbr* New Jersey

NM *abbr* New Mexico

NNE *abbr* north-northeast

NNW *abbr* north-northwest

[1]no /ˈnoʊ/ *adv*

1 a — used to give a negative answer or reply to a question, request, or offer ▪ "Are you going?" "*No*, I am not going." ▪ *No*, you can't have any more candy. ▪ "Did you hear something?" "*No*." ▪ "Do you need a ride?" "*No*, thank you. My wife is picking me up." ▪ He wanted to stay longer but I had to say *no*. ▪ I told him that I couldn't come to the party, but he ***wouldn't take no for an answer***. [=he insisted that I come to the party] **b** : in a way that shows a negative response ▪ She shook her head *no*.

2 — used to introduce a statement that corrects an earlier statement ▪ *No*, that's not the way it happened. ▪ I saw him yesterday—*no*, the day before. ▪ It's big, *no*, it's gigantic. ▪ She has the right, *no*, the duty, to continue her studies.

3 : in no degree or amount : not at all — used in comparisons ▪ The hotel was *no* better than I expected it to be. ▪ You are *no* worse off now than you were before. ▪ He works *no* more than 30 hours per week. ▪ Your experience was *no* different from mine.

4 — used before an adjective to indicate a meaning that is the opposite of the adjective's meaning ▪ He made it clear in *no* uncertain terms [=he made it very clear] that he did not approve of the decision. ▪ It is a matter of *no* small importance. [=it is a matter of much importance]

5 — used to show surprise, doubt, or disbelief ▪ Oh, *no*. Not again. ▪ *No*—you don't say? ▪ *No*, that's impossible. ▪ *No*, you couldn't have been the one responsible.

6 — used to express agreement with a negative statement ▪ "She shouldn't work so hard." "*No*, she really shouldn't."

7 — used to tell someone not to do something ▪ *No*, don't touch that switch.

[2]no *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : not any ▪ She said she had *no* money. ▪ I wanted *no* part of the plan. ▪ They showed *no* concern for my feelings. ▪ people with little or *no* experience with computers ▪ There is *no* parking [=parking is not allowed] on this street. ▪ The sign says "*No* smoking." [=smoking is not allowed] ▪ There's *no* disputing [=it is not possible to dispute] the decision.

2 — used to say that someone or something is not the kind of person or thing being described ▪ He's *no* expert [=he's not an expert] in American history. ▪ She's *no* fool. ▪ This is *no* simple matter. [=this is not a simple matter]

[3]no *noun, pl* **noes** *or* **nos**

1 [*count*] : a negative answer : an answer of no — usually singular ▪ I asked for the day off and received a *no* in reply.

2 a [*count*] : a vote of no ▪ There were 110 ayes and only 16 *noes*. **b** [*plural*] : people who are voting no ▪ The *noes* raised their hands.

No. *or* **no.** *abbr* **1** number ▪ He lives at *No*. 35 Main Street.

2 north, northern

no–account *adj, always used before a noun, US, informal + disapproving* : having no worth or value : WORTHLESS ▪ I don't trust her or her lazy, *no-account* husband.

– **no–account** *noun, pl* **-counts** [*count*] ▪ Her husband is a lazy *no-account*.

nob /ˈnɑːb/ *noun, pl* **nobs** [*count*] *chiefly Brit, informal + old-fashioned* : a person who is wealthy or belongs to the upper class ▪ She threw a party and invited all the local *nobs*.

nob•ble /ˈnɑːbəl/ *verb* **nob•bles**; **nob•bled**; **nob•bling** [+ *obj*] *Brit, informal*

1 : to give a drug to (a horse) to keep it from winning a race ▪ We found out later that the horse had been *nobbled*, which explained its poor performance.

2 : to cause or force (someone) to do something that you want by offering money, making threats, etc. ▪ She was trying to *nobble* the jury. ▪ *nobble* a witness

3 : to succeed in getting or catching (something or someone) ▪ I was about to leave when I was *nobbled* [=*nabbed*] by a man asking for directions.

No•bel Prize /noʊˈbɛl-/ *noun, pl* ~ **Prizes** [*count*] : one of six annual prizes that are awarded to people for important work in the fields of literature, physics, chemistry, medicine, and economics and for helping to bring about peace in the

world ▪ He won the *Nobel Prize* for economics. ▪ the *Nobel Peace Prize* — called also *Nobel*

no•bil•i•ty /noʊˈbɪləti/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being noble in character or quality ▪ the *nobility* of his character ▪ I admire her *nobility*. ▪ They have shown great courage and *nobility* of purpose.

2 ***the nobility*** : the group of people who are members of the highest social class in some countries ▪ a member of *the nobility* [=*aristocracy*]

[1]no•ble /ˈnoʊbəl/ *adj* **no•bler**; **no•blest** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : having, showing, or coming from personal qualities that people admire (such as honesty, generosity, courage, etc.) ▪ He was a man of *noble* character. ▪ It was *noble* of her to come forward with this information. ▪ a *noble* ideal/ambition/cause/purpose

2 *always used before a noun* : of, relating to, or belonging to the highest social class : of, relating to, or belonging to the nobility ▪ She married a man of *noble* [=*aristocratic*] birth/rank. ▪ his *noble* ancestry ▪ the *noble* class

3 : impressive in size or appearance ▪ a *noble* cathedral

4 *technical* : not chemically affected by other substances (such as oxygen) ▪ Platinum is a *noble* metal. ▪ Helium is a *noble* gas.

– **no•bly** /ˈnoʊbli/ *adv* ▪ He worked *nobly* in support of their efforts.

[2]noble *noun, pl* **no•bles** [*count*] : a person who is a member of the nobility

no•ble•man /ˈnoʊblmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a man who is a member of the nobility

no•blesse oblige /noʊˌblɛsəˈbliːʒ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the idea that people who have high social rank or wealth should be helpful and generous to people of lower rank or to people who are poor ▪ He was raised to have a strong sense of *noblesse oblige*.

no•ble•wom•an /ˈnoʊbəlˌwʊmən/ *noun, pl* **-wom•en** /-ˌwɪmən/ [*count*] : a woman who is a member of the nobility

[1]no•body /ˈnoʊbədi/ *pronoun* : no person : NO ONE ▪ There's *nobody* here. ▪ *Nobody* could answer my question. ▪ I guess I'll have to volunteer because it's clear ***nobody else*** will.

nobody's business see BUSINESS

nobody's fool see [1]FOOL

[2]nobody *noun, pl* **-bod•ies** [*count*] : someone who is not important or has no influence ▪ He was a *nobody* in high school.

no–brain•er /ˈnoʊˈbreɪnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *informal* : a decision or choice that is very easy to make and requires very little thought ▪ The offer of a full scholarship made his choice of colleges a *no-brainer*.

noc•tur•nal /nɑkˈtɚnl/ *adj*

1 : active mainly during the night ▪ *nocturnal* animals — opposite DIURNAL

2 *formal* : happening at night ▪ a *nocturnal* journey

noc•turne /ˈnɑːkˌtɚn/ *noun, pl* **-turnes** [*count*] : a piece of music especially for the piano that has a soft and somewhat sad melody

[1]nod /ˈnɑːd/ *verb* **nods**; **nod•ded**; **nod•ding**

1 a : to move your head up and down as a way of answering "yes" or of showing agreement, understanding, or approval [*no obj*] She *nodded* when I asked her if she was ready. ▪ He *nodded* in agreement. [+ *obj*] He *nodded* agreement/approval. ▪ I asked her if she could hear me, and she ***nodded her head***. **b** : to move your head up and down as a signal to someone or as a way of saying hello or goodbye to someone [*no obj*] — often + *to* ▪ The guard *nodded to* us as we walked in. ▪ He *nodded to* his assistant to start the slide show. — often + *at* ▪ She *nodded at* us as she walked past. [+ *obj*] She *nodded* hello.

2 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to slightly move your head in a specified direction ▪ "The bathroom is around the corner," he said, *nodding* to the left. ▪ She *nodded* toward the dirty dishes and said she would get to them later.

3 [*no obj*] : to move up and down ▪ The tulips *nodded* [=*bobbed, swayed*] in the breeze.

nod off [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to fall asleep ▪ I *nodded off* during his speech.

[2]nod *noun, pl* **nods**

1 [*count*] : a movement of your head up and down especially as a way of answering "yes" or of showing agreement, understanding, or approval : an act of nodding ▪ He ***gave me a nod*** [=he nodded at me] as he walked by.

2 [*singular*] *somewhat informal* : something done to show that someone or something has been chosen, approved, etc. ▪ He received/got the party's *nod* as candidate for governor. [=the party chose him as candidate for governor] ▪ She deserves at least a *nod* [=she deserves at least some recognition] for her management of the project. ▪ We're waiting to ***get the nod*** [=to get approval] from the city to start the project. ▪ She finally ***gave us the nod*** on the plans. [=she finally approved our plans]

on the nod *Brit, informal* : by general agreement and without discussion ▪ The proposal went through *on the nod*.

nodding *adj, always used before a noun* : bending downward or forward ▪ a plant with *nodding* [=*drooping*] flowers

a nodding acquaintance : a small amount of knowledge about someone or something ▪ We only have a *nodding acquaintance* with each other. [=we only know each other slightly] ▪ I only have a *nodding acquaintance* with Greek history. [=I know only a little about Greek history]

node /ˈnoʊd/ *noun, pl* **nodes** [*count*] *technical*

1 : a small lump or mass of tissue in your body; *especially* : LYMPH NODE

2 : the small round part on the stem of a plant where a leaf grows

3 : a place where lines in a network cross or meet ▪ a network *node*

– **nod•al** /ˈnoʊdl/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *nodal* tissue ▪ a *nodal* point

nod•ule /ˈnɑːʤul, *Brit* ˈnɒdjul/ *noun, pl* **nod•ules** [*count*] *technical* : a small lump on a part of the body or on the root of a plant ▪ The examination revealed a *nodule* on his lung. ▪ root *nodules*

No•el /noʊˈɛl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : Christmas or the Christmas season ✧ *Noel* is especially used in Christmas greetings and Christmas songs.

noes *plural of* [3]NO

no–fault *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US*

1 — used to describe a type of insurance in which someone involved in a car accident is paid a certain amount of money for damages without the need to decide who caused the accident ▪ *no-fault* insurance ▪ a *no-fault* policy/claim

2 *law* — used to describe a type of divorce in which neither the husband nor the wife is blamed for the end of the marriage ▪ a *no-fault* divorce

no–fly zone *noun, pl* ~ **zones** [*count*] *technical* : an area where military airplanes are not allowed to fly during a conflict or war

no–frills *adj, always used before a noun* : offering or providing only the most important or basic things : not fancy or luxurious ▪ We flew with a *no-frills* airline. ▪ The restaurant offers *no-frills* dining.

nog•gin /ˈnɑːgən/ *noun, pl* **-gins** [*count*] *informal* : a person's head ▪ He fell and got a bump on his *noggin*. ▪ ***Use your noggin***. [=*think*; use your head]

no–go area *noun, pl* ~ **areas** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : an area that is dangerous or where people are not allowed to go ▪ He reported from one of the city's *no-go areas*. — often used figuratively ▪ Religion is a *no-go area* when you talk with her.

[1]no–good *adj, always used before a noun, informal* : having no worth, use, or chance of success ▪ Look at what that *no-good* idiot has done. ▪ I don't trust that lying *no-good* brother of hers.

[2]no–good *noun, pl* **-goods** [*count*] *US, informal* : a bad or useless person ▪ Stay away from those *no-goods*.

no–hit *adj, always used before a noun, baseball* — used to describe a game or inning in which a pitcher does not allow the batters from the other team to get a base hit ▪ He pitched a *no-hit* game today. ▪ After seven *no-hit* innings, he gave up a home run in the eighth.

no–hit•ter /ˌnoʊˈhɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] *baseball* : a game in which a pitcher does not allow the batters from the other team to get a base hit ▪ He pitched a *no-hitter*.

no–holds–barred /ˌnoʊˌhoʊldzˈbɑɚd/ *adj* : free from the usual limits or rules ▪ a *no-holds-barred* interview with the senator ▪ a *no-holds-barred* contest

no–hop•er /ˈnoʊˈhoʊpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : someone or something that has no chance of success ▪ a team of *no-hopers*

noise /ˈnɔɪz/ *noun, pl* **nois•es**

1 a [*noncount*] : a loud or unpleasant sound ▪ I couldn't hear him over all the *noise*. ▪ That's not music. To me it's a bunch of *noise*. ▪ The furnace makes a lot of *noise* when it comes on. ▪ We closed the windows to block out the traffic *noise*. ▪

The landlord has been getting complaints from the tenants about *noise*. **b :** a sound that someone or something makes [*count*] There were *noises* coming from the basement. ▪ The sink was making a gurgling *noise*. ▪ Do you hear that rattling/buzzing/banging *noise*? [*noncount*] The machine hardly makes any *noise*. — see also BACKGROUND NOISE, WHITE NOISE

2 [*noncount*] **a** *technical* **:** unwanted electronic signals that harm the quality of something (such as a radio or television broadcast or a digital photograph) **b :** information that is not useful or important and that makes it more difficult to find the information that you want or need ▪ The initial data included a lot of *noise* that had to be weeded out.

make noise **1 :** to talk about something — often used to suggest that the things being said are not sincere or effective ▪ Congress has been *making* (a lot of) *noise* about lowering taxes, but no one expects it to happen. **2 :** to complain about something ▪ People have been *making* (a lot of) *noise* about the price increases.

make noises **1 :** to talk about something in usually an indirect way — usually + *about* ▪ She started *making noises about* running for office. [=she started saying things that showed she was thinking about running for office] ▪ Her parents are *making noises about* wanting a grandchild. ▪ The government has been *making* some encouraging *noises about* the possibility of a tax cut. **2 :** to make statements of a specified kind ▪ The company has been ***making soothing/reassuring noises*** to calm the fears of investors. — often used to suggest that the things being said are not sincere or effective ▪ Politicians are ***making (all) the right noises*** about improving the schools, but they don't want to spend any money to do it.

– see also BIG NOISE

– **noise·less** /'noɪzləs/ *adj* ▪ The machine is almost *noiseless*. ▪ *noiseless* footsteps – **noise·less·ly** *adv* ▪ He slipped into the room *noiselessly*.

noise·mak·er /'noɪz,meɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *US* **:** a device (such as a horn) that is used to make noise at parties ▪ All the guests had *noisemakers* and party hats.

noise pollution *noun* [*noncount*] **:** loud or unpleasant noise that is caused by automobiles, airplanes, etc., and that is harmful or annoying to the people who can hear it ▪ The airport has made changes to decrease *noise pollution*.

noi·some /'noɪsəm/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal + literary* **:** very unpleasant or disgusting ▪ a *noisome* [=*sickening*] odor

noisy /'noɪzi/ *adj* **nois·i·er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*]

1 : making a lot of loud or unpleasant noise ▪ The playground was filled with *noisy* children. ▪ His lawnmower is very *noisy*. ▪ a *noisy* crowd

2 : full of loud or unpleasant noise ▪ a *noisy* street/restaurant/office

– **nois·i·ly** /'noɪzəli/ *adv* ▪ The dog barked *noisily*.

no·mad /'noʊ,mæd/ *noun, pl* **-mads** [*count*] **:** a member of a group of people who move from place to place instead of living in one place all the time ▪ a tribe of *nomads* ▪ He lived like a *nomad* for a few years after college, never holding a job in one place for very long.

– **no·mad·ic** /noʊ'mædɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ *nomadic* tribes ▪ He has a very *nomadic* lifestyle. [=he is always moving to different places]

no–man's–land /'noʊ,mænz,lænd/ *noun* [*singular*] **:** an area of land between two countries or armies that is not controlled by anyone — often used figuratively ▪ His music lies in the *no-man's-land* between jazz and rock. ▪ The downtown area was a *no-man's-land* of abandoned buildings and decay.

nom de plume /,nɑ:mdɪ'plu:m/ *noun, pl* **noms de plume** /,nɑ:mzdɪ'plu:m/ [*count*] *formal* **:** a name used by a writer instead of the writer's real name **:** PEN NAME ▪ He wrote under a *nom de plume*.

no·men·cla·ture /'noʊmən,kleɪtʃɚ, *Brit* nəʊ'mɛŋkləʧə/ *noun, pl* **-tures** *formal* **:** a system of names for things especially in science [*noncount*] botanical *nomenclature* [*count*] the *nomenclatures of* zoology and chemistry

nom·i·nal /'nɑ:mənl/ *adj, formal*

1 : existing as something in name only **:** not actual or real ▪ He was the *nominal* head of the party. [=he was called the head of the party but he did not actually run the party] ▪ Her title of vice president had been *nominal* only.

2 : very small in amount ▪ a *nominal* price/charge ▪ They charge a *nominal* fee for the service. ▪ His involvement was *nominal*.

– **nom·i·nal·ly** *adv* ▪ He was *nominally* in charge of the project.

nom·i·nate /'nɑ:mə,neɪt/ *verb* **-nates; -nat·ed; -nat·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to formally choose (someone) as a candidate for a job, position, office, etc. ▪ We expect the party to *nominate* him for president. ▪ The President *nominated* her for Attorney General. — often used as *(be) nominated* ▪ She *was nominated* for a second term. **b :** to choose (someone) for a job, position, office, etc. ▪ The chairman can *nominate* [=*name, appoint*] three members to the committee. ▪ Someone has to tell her the truth—I *nominate* you. — often used as *(be) nominated* ▪ He *was nominated* to the Supreme Court. ▪ She *was nominated* by the chairman.

2 : to choose (someone or something) as a candidate for receiving an honor or award ▪ We *nominated* her for player of the year. — often used as *(be) nominated* ▪ He *was nominated* for an Academy Award for his role in the film. ▪ She *was nominated* as Best Actress three times in her career.

nom·i·na·tion /,nɑ:mə'neɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 a [*count*] **:** the act of formally choosing someone as a candidate for a job, position, office, etc. ▪ We expect him to get the Democratic *nomination*. **b :** the act of choosing someone for a job, position, office, etc. [*count*] The Senate has to approve his *nomination*. [=*choice*] [*noncount*] Membership is by *nomination* only.

2 [*count*] **a :** the act of choosing someone or something as a candidate for receiving an honor or award ▪ The novel earned a *nomination* for the National Book Award. ▪ The film received five Academy Award *nominations*. **b :** someone or something that has been chosen as a candidate for receiving an honor or award ▪ The *nominations* for the Academy Awards have been announced.

nom·i·na·tive /'nɑ:mənətɪv/ *noun* [*noncount*] *grammar* **:** the form of a noun, pronoun, or adjective when it is the subject of a verb ▪ "He" in "He sees her" is in the *nominative*. — compare ACCUSATIVE

– **nominative** *adj* ▪ the *nominative* case

nom·i·nee /,nɑ:mə'ni:/ *noun, pl* **-nees** [*count*] **:** someone or something that has been chosen as a candidate for a job, position, office, honor, award, etc. **:** someone or something that has been nominated ▪ He is expected to be the Democratic *nominee*. ▪ There's been a lot of controversy about the *nominee* to the Supreme Court. — often + *for* ▪ She is one of the *nominees for* Best Actress. ▪ the President's *nominee for* Attorney General

non- /nɑn/ *prefix* **:** not ▪ *non*fatal ▪ *non*fiction ▪ *non*profit ▪ *non*-native English speakers ▪ a *non*religious holiday

no·na·ge·nar·i·an /,noʊnəʤə'nerijən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*] **:** a person who is between 90 and 99 years old

non·ag·gres·sion /,nɑ:nə'grɛʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** a situation in which countries promise that they will not attack each other ▪ a policy of *nonaggression* ▪ The countries have signed a ***nonaggression treaty/pact***. [=a formal agreement between countries to not attack each other]

non·al·co·hol·ic /,nɑ:n,ælkə'hɑ:lɪk/ *adj* — used to describe a drink that does not contain any alcohol ▪ *nonalcoholic* drinks/beer

non·aligned /,nɑ:nə'laɪnd/ *adj* **:** not having made an official agreement to receive support from and give support to one extremely powerful country (such as the U.S. or the U.S.S.R.) rather than another ▪ *nonaligned* countries

– **non·align·ment** /,nɑ:nə'laɪnmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a policy of *nonalignment* [=*neutrality*]

no–name /'noʊ,neɪm/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US*

1 : having a name that most people do not know **:** not well-known ▪ She often buys cheap, *no-name* products.

2 : having players, members, etc., whose names are not by most people ▪ a *no-name* baseball team

– **no–name** *noun, pl* **-names** [*count*] ▪ He was surprised that a team full of *no-names* won the championship.

non·ap·pear·ance /,nɑ:nə'pirəns/ *noun, pl* **-anc·es** [*count, noncount*] *somewhat formal* **:** failure to be at a place where you are expected to be ▪ His fans were disappointed by his *nonappearance* at the concert.

non·at·ten·dance /,nɑ:nə'tɛndəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** failure to be at a place or event where you are expected to be ▪ The school district worked on ways to lower the rate of *nonattendance* among its students.

non·be·liev·er /,nɑ:nbə'li:vɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] **:** a person who does not believe in something (such as a religious belief or a scientific idea about how something happens or

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could happen) ▪ a memorial service that is suitable for both believers and *nonbelievers* ▪ They're trying to convince the *nonbelievers*.

non•bind•ing /nɑnˈbaɪndɪŋ/ *adj, law* : not officially requiring that you do something : not able to be enforced by law ▪ We entered/signed a ***nonbinding agreement*** to buy our competitor. [=we agreed to buy our competitor, but we did not make a legal and official promise to buy it]

non•bi•o•log•i•cal /nɑnˌbajəˈlɑːʤɪkəl/ *adj*

1 : not coming from or related to things that are alive ▪ rocks, minerals, and other *nonbiological* things

2 : related through adoption rather than birth ▪ *nonbiological* parents and siblings

[1]nonce /ˈnɑːns/ *noun*

for the nonce *somewhat formal* : for now : for the moment ▪ The team is called "the Lions," at least *for the nonce*.

[2]nonce *adj, always used before a noun* : used or made only once or for a special occasion ▪ a *nonce* word/term

non•cha•lant /ˌnɑːnʃəˈlɑːnt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : relaxed and calm in a way that shows that you do not care or are not worried about anything ▪ He was surprisingly *nonchalant* about winning the award. ▪ She faced the crowd with the *nonchalant* ease of an experienced speaker. ▪ The team may have been somewhat *nonchalant* at the beginning of the season, but they now know that they need to work hard.

– **non•cha•lance** /ˌnɑːnʃəˈlɑːns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She faced the crowd with the *nonchalance* of an experienced speaker. ▪ His *nonchalance* about winning the award is a little surprising. – **non•cha•lant•ly** *adv*

non•cit•i•zen /nɑnˈsɪtəzən/ *noun, pl* **-zens** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a person who lives in a country and is not a legal citizen of it ▪ Voting rights do not apply to *noncitizens*. [=*aliens*]

non•com /ˈnɑːnˌkɑːm/ *noun, pl* **-coms** [*count*] *US* : NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER

non•com•ba•tant /ˌnɑːnkəmˈbætn̩t/ *noun, pl* **-tants** [*count*]

1 : a person (such as a military chaplain or doctor) who is in the army, navy, etc., but does not fight

2 : a person who is not in the army, navy, etc. : CIVILIAN

non•com•mer•cial /ˌnɑːnkəˈmɚʃəl/ *adj*

1 a : not used for earning money ▪ *noncommercial* properties ▪ The worksheets are free for anyone to use for *noncommercial* purposes. **b** : not made or operated for the purpose of earning money ▪ a *noncommercial* theater ▪ *noncommercial* art

2 : without advertisements : not paid for by advertisers ▪ *noncommercial* radio/television

non•com•mis•sioned officer /ˌnɑːnkəˈmɪʃənd-/ *noun, pl* ~ **-cers** [*count*] : an officer (such as a sergeant or corporal) who has a low rank in the army, air force, or marine corps — called also *NCO, noncom*

non•com•mit•tal /ˌnɑːnkəˈmɪtl̩/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not telling or showing what you think about something ▪ She would only give *noncommittal* answers about her plans. ▪ The president remained *noncommittal*, saying only that all options would be considered. — often + *about* ▪ He was *noncommittal about* how the money would be spent.

– **non•com•mit•tal•ly** *adv* ▪ "We'll have to wait and see," she replied *noncommittally*.

non•com•mu•nist /nɑnˈkɑːmjənɪst/ *adj* : not having or supporting communism as a political and economic system ▪ *noncommunist* nations/parties

non•com•pet•i•tive /ˌnɑːnkəmˈpɛtətɪv/ *adj, chiefly US*

1 a : not very interested in winning or being more successful than other people ▪ He's a pretty *noncompetitive* guy, especially compared to his brothers. **b** : not involved in official competitions, contests, etc. ▪ Once a week, he plays hockey in a *noncompetitive* league.

2 : not good enough to compete with others ▪ The school was unable to hire good teachers because it was paying *noncompetitive* wages/salaries.

3 : not having or allowing competition ▪ The report describes dozens of ***noncompetitive contracts*** [=contracts that were unfairly given to a company without seeing if another company would do the job for less money] that the state has illegally given out in the past five years.

– **non•com•pet•i•tive•ly** *adv* – **non•com•pet•i•tive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

non•com•pli•ance /ˌnɑːnkəmˈplajəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US, formal* : the condition of not having or doing something that is officially required ▪ The town has increased the fine for *noncompliance* (with the law) to $100. ▪ When the law goes into effect next month, every school found to be ***in noncompliance*** will be fined $1,000 per day.

– **non•com•pli•ant** /ˌnɑːnkəmˈplajənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *noncompliant* prisoner/patient ▪ *noncompliant* software ▪ Schools that are *noncompliant* will be fined.

non•con•form•ist /ˌnɑːnkənˈfoɚmɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who does not behave the way most people behave : someone who does not conform ▪ He was a *nonconformist* in college but now wears a three-piece suit to work every day. ▪ They were stubborn *nonconformists* who chose to be arrested instead of obeying the laws. — opposite CONFORMIST

– **nonconformist** *adj* ▪ *nonconformist* behavior ▪ *nonconformist* [=*unorthodox*] views

non•con•for•mi•ty /ˌnɑːnkənˈfoɚməti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : failure or refusal to behave the way most people behave : failure or refusal to conform ▪ As a teenager, he was embarrassed by his parents' *nonconformity*.

non•con•fron•ta•tion•al /nɑnˌkɑːnfrənˈteɪʃənl̩/ *adj* : not likely to make people angry or upset ▪ She wanted to talk to them about their behavior in a *nonconfrontational* way. : tending to avoid arguments and conflict with other people ▪ He has a mild, *nonconfrontational* nature.

non•con•sen•su•al /ˌnɑːnkənˈsɛnʃəwəl/ *adj* : not agreed to by one or more of the people involved ▪ *nonconsensual* sex

non•con•trib•u•to•ry /ˌnɑːnkənˈtrɪbjəˌtori, *Brit* ˌnɒnkənˈtrɪbjətri/ *adj* : paid for completely by an employer : not requiring payments from the workers ▪ The company offered both a contributory and a *noncontributory* plan for workers' pensions.

non•con•tro•ver•sial /nɑnˌkɑːntrəˈvɚʃəl/ *adj* : not causing a lot of discussion, disagreement, or argument : not likely to cause controversy ▪ a relatively *noncontroversial* issue

non•co•op•er•a•tion /ˌnɑːnkoʊˌɑːpəˈreɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : failure or refusal to do what someone has told or asked you to do : lack of cooperation ▪ They adopted a strategy of *noncooperation* until they were treated fairly.

non•count noun /ˈnɑːnˈkaʊnt-/ *noun, pl* ~ **nouns** [*count*] *grammar* : a noun (such as "sand" or "butter") that refers to something that cannot be counted ✧ Noncount nouns do not have a plural form and are not used with the indefinite articles *a* and *an*. — called also *mass noun*; compare COUNT NOUN

non•cred•it /ˈnɑːnˈkrɛdət/ *adj, always used before a noun, US* : not able to be counted as one of the courses that you must take to get a degree from a college or university : not taken for credit (sense 7b) ▪ a *noncredit* course/class

non•cus•to•di•al /ˌnɑːnkəˈstoʊdijəl/ *adj, always used before a noun, law*

1 : not living with your child or having the responsibility of caring for your child after a divorce, legal separation, etc. : not having custody ▪ a *noncustodial* parent

2 *non-custodial* *Brit* : involving punishment that does not require a criminal to spend time in prison ▪ The judge favors *non-custodial* sentences/punishments for most first offenses.

non•dairy /nɑnˈderi/ *adj* : not containing or made with milk ▪ *nondairy* whipped topping ▪ *nondairy* creamer

non•de•nom•i•na•tion•al /ˌnɑːndɪˌnɑːməˈneɪʃənl̩/ *adj* : made for or used by people who belong to different religious groups : not restricted to a single denomination ▪ a *nondenominational* church/congregation/service

non•de•script /ˌnɑːndɪˈskrɪpt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not easily described : having no special or interesting qualities, parts, etc. : typical and uninteresting ▪ I work in one of the *nondescript* office buildings downtown. ▪ Their performance was disappointingly *nondescript*.

[1]none /ˈnʌn/ *pronoun* : not any of a group of people or things : no amount or part of something ▪ *None* of this was necessary. ▪ Why are all the guests standing in the kitchen and *none* sitting in the living room? ▪ Half a piece is better than *none*. ▪ The frozen yogurt tastes like ice cream but has *none* of the fat (that ice cream has). ▪ Though the languages are related they share almost/virtually *none* of the same vocabulary. ▪ *None* of it is finished yet. ▪ "Can I have some soup?" "I'm afraid there's *none* left." [=there is no more soup; no soup remains] ▪ *None* of the birds was/were singing. ▪ Of all the competitions, *none* is/are more important than this one. = Of all the competitions, there is/are *none* as important as this one. ▪ To cut back on cholesterol my doctor said I should eat less meat or ***none at all***. ▪ "You have no doubts?" "***None whatsoever***." ▪ This is ***none of your affair/business***. [=you should not interfere in this situation; it is not proper for you

to say, do, or ask anything about this]

have none of : to refuse to accept, allow, or be influenced by (a particular behavior) : to not allow someone to do (something) ▪ I will *have none of* that kind of talk in my house. ▪ The group petitioned to have the votes counted again, but the government would *have none of* that. ▪ They begged their mother to take them out for ice cream, but she was ***having none of it***.

none but *somewhat formal* : no person or kind of person except : ONLY ▪ a sport for *none but* the most brave ▪ It was a request that *none but* the most coldhearted (person) could refuse.

none other than — used to show that you are surprised or impressed by the person or thing you are about to mention ▪ It turns out I was sitting next to *none other than* the founder of the magazine. ▪ *None other than* my favorite actor was cast in the lead role.

none the less : NONETHELESS

second to none : better than all others of the same kind ▪ His cakes are *second to none*. [=the cakes he makes are better than all other cakes] ▪ The city's public transportation system is *second to none*.

[2]none *adv*

none the — used in phrases with adjectives like *worse, better*, etc., to say that someone or something is not any worse, better, etc., than before; often + *for* ▪ We had to change our plans, but we were *none the worse for* it in the end. ▪ She's been traveling constantly for the past several weeks, but she seems to be ***none the worse for wear***. ▪ The restaurant replaced the lobster with crab and the customers were ***none the wiser***. [=customers who ate the crab did not know that it was not lobster; customers thought they were eating lobster]

none too : not at all ▪ He was *none too* happy [=not happy at all] about the situation. ▪ She was *none too* pleased. ▪ The firefighters reached the burning house ***none too soon***. [=they reached it just in time to prevent something bad from happening]

non•en•ti•ty /nɑn'ɛntəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*count*] : a person who is not famous or important ▪ She quickly went from being a *nonentity* [=*nobody*] to being one of the most famous women in the country.

[1]non•es•sen•tial /ˌnɑ:nɪ'sɛnʃəl/ *adj* : not completely necessary : not essential ▪ All *nonessential* personnel had to be laid off. ▪ Please avoid all *nonessential* uses of water.

[2]nonessential *noun, pl* **-tials** [*count*] : something that is not completely necessary : something that is not essential — usually plural ▪ She puts aside money in her monthly budget for *nonessentials* like haircuts and vacations.

none•the•less /ˌnʌnðə'lɛs/ *adv, somewhat formal* : in spite of what has just been said : NEVERTHELESS ▪ There's no doubt the city is changing for the better. *Nonetheless* [=*however*], no one has been too surprised by the recent violence. ▪ The hike was difficult, but fun *nonetheless*. [=the hike was fun even though it was difficult]

non•event /'nɑ:nɪˌvɛnt/ *noun, pl* **-events** [*count*] *informal* : an event that is much less interesting or important than it was expected to be — usually singular ▪ To their surprise, her resignation was a *nonevent*. ▪ The town expected protests, but the smoking ban actually turned out to be a *nonevent*.

non•ex•ec•u•tive (*chiefly US*) *or chiefly Brit* **non–ex•ec•u•tive** /ˌnɑ:nɪg'zɛkjətɪv/ *adj, always used before a noun, business* : allowed to give advice but not allowed to make important decisions ▪ She will remain with the company as *nonexecutive* chairman after she retires. ▪ *nonexecutive* director

non•ex•is•tent /ˌnɑ:nɪg'zɪstənt/ *adj* : not present or real : not existing ▪ Programs to protect endangered animals are virtually/practically/almost/essentially *nonexistent* in that country. ▪ These days the disease is rare or *nonexistent* in most places. ▪ You are living in fear of a *nonexistent* threat.

– **non•ex•is•tence** /ˌnɑ:nɪg'zɪstəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a debate over the existence or *nonexistence* of God

non•fat /'nɑ:n'fæt/ *adj* : having no fat : with the fat removed ▪ *nonfat* milk

non•fa•tal /'nɑ:n'feɪtl/ *adj* : not causing death : not fatal ▪ There has been an increase in the number of *nonfatal* shootings in the city.

non•fic•tion /'nɑ:n'fɪkʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : writing that is about facts or real events : all writing that is not fiction ▪ He reads a lot of *nonfiction*. — often used before another noun ▪ *nonfiction* books/works ▪ History books are in the library's *nonfiction* section.

non•fi•nite /'nɑ:n'faɪˌnaɪt/ *adj, grammar* : not showing differences in tense, grammatical person, or number : not finite ▪ "Be" in "I'm going to be a teacher when I grow up" is a *nonfinite* verb. ▪ "Standing" is one of the verb's *nonfinite* forms.

non•flam•ma•ble /'nɑ:n'flæməbəl/ *adj* : not burning or not burning easily : not easily set on fire ▪ *nonflammable* fabric

non•gov•ern•men•tal /nɑnˌgʌvən'mɛntl/ *also* **non•gov•ern•ment** /nɑn'gʌvənmənt/ *adj, always used before a noun* : not belonging to or controlled by a government ▪ Many *nongovernmental* charities are run by religious groups. ▪ We turned to an environmentalist ***nongovernmental organization*** [=*NGO*] for advice on responsible waste disposal.

non•hu•man /nɑn'hju:mən/ *adj* : not a man, woman, or child : not a human being ▪ *nonhuman* primates/animals — compare INHUMAN, SUBHUMAN

non•in•ter•ven•tion /ˌnɑ:nˌɪntə'vɛnʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : refusal to become involved in another country's business, problems, etc. ▪ The country has adopted a policy of *nonintervention*.

– **non•in•ter•ven•tion•ist** /ˌnɑ:nˌɪntə'vɛnʃənɪst/ *adj* ▪ a strict *noninterventionist* policy

non•in•va•sive /ˌnɑ:nɪn'veɪsɪv/ *adj, medical* : done without cutting the body or putting something into the body ▪ *noninvasive* techniques of measuring brain activity

non•is•sue /'nɑ:n'ɪʃu/ *noun, pl* **-is•sues** [*count*] : an issue that is not important : something that people are not concerned about — usually singular ▪ She's very good at her job. Her disability is a *nonissue*. ▪ The fact that one of the candidates is an immigrant is a *nonissue*. [=people do not care that the candidate is an immigrant]

non•judg•men•tal *or chiefly Brit* **non•judge•men•tal** /ˌnɑ:nˌʤʌʤ'mɛntl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : tending not to judge other people harshly or unfairly : not too critical of other people ▪ A good friend is *nonjudgmental*. ▪ *nonjudgmental* people

non•mem•ber /'nɑ:n'mɛmbɚ/ *noun, pl* **-bers** [*count*] : someone who is not a member of a particular organization ▪ Entry to the museum costs $10 for *nonmembers*.

non–na•tive /nɑn'neɪtɪv/ *adj* : not native: such as **a** *of an animal or plant* : living or growing in a place that is not the region where it naturally lives and grows ▪ Irrigation allows *non-native* plants to grow in the desert. ▪ *Non-native* species of insects are having devastating effects on local crops. **b** : not born or raised in the place where a particular language is spoken ▪ The college has English classes for *non-native* speakers. [=people who are not native speakers of English]

– **non–native** *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*] ▪ I was surprised at how well people in that country treated me, a *non-native*. ▪ classes for *non-natives*

non–ne•go•tia•ble /ˌnɑ:nnɪ'goʊʃiəbəl/ *adj*

1 : not allowed to be discussed and possibly changed ▪ The school must meet several *non-negotiable* requirements to be eligible for the funding. ▪ a *non-negotiable* contract ▪ Her parents simply said, "You must finish high school. It's *non-negotiable*."

2 *finance, of a check* : able to be exchanged for money only by the person whose name is on it

no–no /'noʊˌnoʊ/ *noun, pl* **no–no's** *or* **no–nos** [*count*] *informal*

1 : something that people are not supposed to do because it is not proper, safe, fashionable, etc. ▪ Forgetting to introduce your guests to one another is a big *no-no* when hosting a party. ▪ Sharing prescription medication with other people is a definite *no-no*. ▪ fashion *no-no's*

2 *baseball* : NO-HITTER

no–nonsense *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very serious about doing things in a direct and efficient way without any foolishness or nonsense ▪ I want to wear something that will make me look like a *no-nonsense* professional. ▪ a doctor who is very *no-nonsense* ▪ a *no-nonsense* attitude

[1]non•pa•reil /ˌnɑ:npə'rɛl/ *adj, formal* : better than any other : having no equal ▪ That bakery's cakes are *nonpareil*. [=*incomparable, unparalleled*] ▪ He was the teacher *nonpareil* [=the best teacher] at his school.

[2]nonpareil *noun, pl* **-reils**

1 [*singular*] *formal* : someone or something that is better than any other ▪ Elvis was the *nonpareil* of early American rock and roll.

2 [*count*] *US* : a candy that is a small, flat, round piece of chocolate covered with tiny balls made of sugar

non•par•ti•san /'nɑ:n'pɑɚtəzən/ *adj* : not supporting one

N

political party or group over another : not partisan ▪ It's a nonprofit, *nonpartisan* organization dedicated to preserving our national parks.

non•pay•ment /ˈnɑːnˈpeɪmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : failure to pay money that you owe for rent, taxes, etc. — often + *of* ▪ Their electricity was turned off for *nonpayment of* bills. [=because they did not pay their electricity bills]

non•per•ish•able /nɑnˈpɛrɪʃəbəl/ *adj* : able to be stored for a long time before being eaten or used ▪ *nonperishable* food items

– **nonperishable** *noun, pl* **-ables** [*count*] — usually plural ▪ The students collected *nonperishables* to give to the poor.

non•plussed *also US* **non•plused** /ˌnɑːnˈplʌst/ *adj, not used before a noun* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : so surprised or confused by something that you do not know what to say, think, or do : PERPLEXED ▪ He was *nonplussed* by his daughter's confession that she had stolen the CD. ▪ She looked slightly *nonplussed* at first but composed herself quickly.

non•po•lit•i•cal /ˌnɑːnpəˈlɪtɪkəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not political : not influenced by or interested in political issues ▪ The organization is *nonpolitical*. [=*apolitical*] ▪ a *nonpolitical* speech/magazine ▪ *nonpolitical* motives/issues

non•prac•tic•ing /ˌnɑːnˈpræktɪsɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : not regularly doing the things that are associated with your religion, the profession you were trained in, etc. ▪ a *nonpracticing* Catholic/lawyer

non•pre•scrip•tion /ˌnɑːnprɪˈskrɪpʃən/ *adj, always used before a noun* : possible to buy without an official written order from a doctor : possible to buy without a prescription ▪ a *nonprescription* [=*over-the-counter*] pain reliever

non•prof•it /ˈnɑːnˈprɑːfət/ *adj* : not existing or done for the purpose of making a profit ▪ a *nonprofit* group/agency that provides care to recovering drug addicts ▪ Schools don't pay sales tax on supplies because they have *nonprofit* status. ✧ A nonprofit organization uses whatever money it earns or raises to run the organization and to do the work of the organization. Nonprofit organizations usually do work that helps people or supports something valued by many people in a society (such as art or education).

– **nonprofit** *noun, pl* **-its** [*count*] ▪ She works for a local *nonprofit* that provides care to recovering drug addicts.

non–profit–making *adj, Brit* : NONPROFIT ▪ a *non-profit-making* organization

non•pro•lif•er•a•tion /ˌnɑːnprəˌlɪfəˈreɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the act of stopping the production of nuclear and chemical weapons or of limiting the number of nuclear and chemical weapons in the world ▪ a conference to discuss nuclear *nonproliferation* ▪ a *nonproliferation* treaty

non•re•fund•able /ˌnɑːnrɪˈfʌndəbəl/ *adj*

1 *of something you buy* : not allowed to be returned in exchange for the money you paid ▪ The tickets are *nonrefundable* unless the show is canceled.

2 *of a payment* : not to be returned ▪ A *nonrefundable* deposit [=a deposit of money that will not be returned to you] is required when you place an order.

non•re•new•able /ˌnɑːnrɪˈnuːwəbəl/ *adj*

1 : not able to grow again or be made again : not able to be replaced by nature ▪ Scientists are looking for new sources of fuel to replace our dependence on *nonrenewable* resources such as oil.

2 : not continued or repeated after a period of time has ended ▪ a *nonrenewable* contract/lease ▪ a *nonrenewable* college scholarship

non•res•i•dent /ˈnɑːnˈrɛzədənt/ *noun, pl* **-dents** [*count*]

1 : a person who does not live in a particular town, city, state, or country : a person who is not a resident ▪ *Nonresidents* need to fill out special paperwork to get a library card. ▪ This parking lot is closed to *nonresidents*.

2 ***non-resident*** *Brit* : a person who is not staying in a particular hotel ▪ The hotel dining room is open to *non-residents* for dinner.

– **nonresident** *adj* ▪ For her U.S. income taxes, she is considered a ***nonresident alien***. [=a person who is born in another country and is not considered a permanent resident of the U.S.]

non•res•i•den•tial /nɑnˌrɛzəˈdɛnʃəl/ *adj*

1 : not made for people to live in ▪ The company installs security systems in *nonresidential* buildings. ▪ The bottom floor of the building is for *nonresidential* use and the top two floors have apartments.

2 ***non-residential*** *Brit, of an activity, class, etc.* : not including or providing a place for people to live ▪ a *non-residential* course ▪ *non-residential* summer school

non•re•stric•tive /ˌnɑːnrɪˈstrɪktɪv/ *adj*

1 : not limiting or controlling something ▪ It's a *nonrestrictive* diet that stresses eating smaller portions rather than not eating certain foods. ▪ You'll be moving around a lot, so wear ***nonrestrictive clothing***. [=clothes that do not make it difficult to move freely]

2 *grammar, of a word or group of words* : describing or giving more information about a person or thing but not needed to understand which person or thing is meant ▪ In the sentence "My brother, who works at a restaurant, just got his first car," "who works at a restaurant" is a ***nonrestrictive clause***.

— compare RESTRICTIVE

non•re•turn•able /ˌnɑːnrɪˈtɚnəbəl/ *adj*

1 : not allowed to be returned to a store for money or something of similar value ▪ Clothing bought during the sale is *nonreturnable*. [=you cannot bring it back to the store in exchange for the money you paid for it] ▪ *nonreturnable* bottles/cans

2 : not to be returned ▪ a *nonreturnable* [=*nonrefundable*] deposit

non•sci•en•tif•ic /nɑnˌsajənˈtɪfɪk/ *adj*

1 : not based on scientific methods or principles ▪ a *nonscientific* [=*unscientific*] survey/poll/study

2 : not trained in science ▪ A *nonscientific* reader may be unfamiliar with some of the terms in the article.

non•sense /ˈnɑːnˌsɛns/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : words or ideas that are foolish or untrue ▪ I don't know why you believe that *nonsense* about certain numbers being unlucky. ▪ The stories she told about him are sheer/utter/complete/absolute *nonsense*. [=the stories are completely false] ▪ He says he was attacked by a frog? *Nonsense*. [=I do not believe that he was attacked by a frog] ▪ She thinks that astrology is *nonsense*. ▪ The rumors are a lot of *nonsense*. [=they are not true] ▪ Don't listen to him. He's ***talking nonsense***.

2 : behavior that is silly, annoying, or unkind ▪ He was not in the mood to put up with any *nonsense* from his little brother. ▪ If they start pushing each other or some such *nonsense*, send them to their rooms. ▪ She doesn't ***take any nonsense*** from anyone. — see also NO-NONSENSE

3 : language that has no meaning ▪ Many of the words in the poem are *nonsense*. ▪ I understood so few of the words they were using that the conversation sounded like *nonsense* to me. — often used before another noun ▪ When he didn't know the words, he sang along using *nonsense* syllables. ▪ Her stories are full of *nonsense* words that kids have fun trying to say. ▪ *nonsense* verse/poems/rhyme [=silly poetry that often uses words that are not real words]

make (a) nonsense of *Brit* : to cause (something) to no longer be effective : to take away the value or usefulness of (something) ▪ The lack of guards *makes a nonsense of* the security checkpoint.

non•sen•si•cal /ˌnɑːnˈsɛnsɪkəl/ *adj* : very foolish or silly ▪ a *nonsensical* argument ▪ It would be *nonsensical* to accept the lower paying job.

non se•qui•tur /ˈnɑːnˈsɛkwətɚ/ *noun, pl* **~ -turs** [*count*] : a statement that is not connected in a logical or clear way to anything said before it ▪ We were talking about the new restaurant when she threw in some *non sequitur* about her dog. ✧ *Non sequitur* is a Latin phrase that literally means "it does not follow."

non•sex•ist /nɑnˈsɛksɪst/ *adj* : not sexist : treating men and women equally and fairly ▪ *nonsexist* language

non•skid /ˈnɑːnˈskɪd/ *adj* : made to prevent slipping or skidding : not allowing something to slide ▪ shoes with *nonskid* soles ▪ a *nonskid* surface

non•slip /ˈnɑːnˈslɪp/ *adj* : made to prevent slipping : not allowing something to slide ▪ shoes with *nonslip* soles ▪ a *nonslip* handle

non•smok•er /ˌnɑːnˈsmoʊkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who does not smoke

non•smok•ing /nɑnˈsmoʊkɪŋ/ *adj*

1 — used to describe a place where people are not allowed to smoke ▪ Let's sit in the restaurant's *nonsmoking* section. ▪ The bar is *nonsmoking*. [=people are not allowed to smoke in the bar]

2 *always used before a noun, of a person* : not having the habit of smoking ▪ I'm looking for a *nonsmoking* roommate. [=a roommate who does not smoke]

non•spe•cif•ic /ˌnɑːnspɪˈsɪfɪk/ *adj*

1 *medical* : not clearly having one specific cause ▪ *nonspecif-*

ic pain/inflammation ▪ a patient complaining of *nonspecific* symptoms

2 : not clearly understood or described : lacking specific details ▪ a *nonspecific* [=*general*] threat ▪ What little information we have is *nonspecific*.

non•stan•dard /ˌnɑːnˈstændɚd/ *adj*

1 : not accepted or used by most of the educated speakers and writers of a language ▪ *nonstandard* dialects ▪ a *nonstandard* word

2 : not the usual size or kind ▪ He works *nonstandard* hours so that he can pick his kids up from school. ▪ a *nonstandard*-sized bottle/card ▪ *nonstandard* fuels — opposite STANDARD; compare SUBSTANDARD

non•start•er /ˌnɑːnˈstɑɚtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 *informal* : someone or something that will not be effective or successful — usually singular ▪ Tax reform appears to be a *nonstarter* this year. ▪ As a candidate, he's a *nonstarter*. [=he has no chance to succeed as a candidate] ▪ She acknowledges that the proposal may be a political *nonstarter*.

2 *US, sports* : a player who is not chosen to play at the beginning of games : a player who is not one of the starters on a team ▪ She's the leading scorer among the team's *nonstarters*.

non•stick /ˈnɑːnˈstɪk/ *adj* : allowing easy removal of cooked food ▪ There is a *nonstick* coating on the pan. ▪ a *nonstick* skillet/spray

non•stop /ˈnɑːnˈstɑːp/ *adj*

1 : done or made without stopping ▪ a *nonstop* [=*direct*] flight ▪ The airline has *nonstop* service between Boston and Seattle. [=it has planes that regularly fly between Boston and Seattle without stopping]

2 : not stopping ▪ The festival is five days of *nonstop* [=*continuous*] music. ▪ The action in the movie is *nonstop*. [=very exciting things happen throughout the movie]

– **nonstop** *adv* ▪ The plane is capable of flying *nonstop* between New York and Beijing. ▪ They danced *nonstop* until the club closed. ▪ The baby cried *nonstop* [=*continuously*] for hours. ▪ She drove 15 hours *nonstop*.

non•tax•able /nɑnˈtæksəbəl/ *adj* : not taxed ▪ *nontaxable* income

non•threat•en•ing /nɑnˈθrɛtnɪŋ/ *adj* : not likely to cause someone to be afraid or worried : not threatening ▪ It's best to approach the dog in a calm, *nonthreatening* way.

non•tox•ic /nɑnˈtɑːksɪk/ *adj* : not poisonous ▪ The school uses only *nontoxic* paint. ▪ The chemicals are relatively *nontoxic* but should be kept away from children and animals.

non•tra•di•tion•al /ˌnɑːntrəˈdɪʃənl/ *adj* : different from what is typical or usual ▪ He has a very *nontraditional* approach to teaching. ▪ The college encourages ***nontraditional students*** [=students who are older than the typical age of college students] to apply. ▪ children growing up in ***nontraditional families*** [=families that are not made up of one mother, one father, and a child or children]

non–trans•fer•able /ˌnɑːntrænsˈfɚrəbəl/ *adj* : not able to be given to or used by another person ▪ The plane tickets are nonrefundable and *non-transferable*.

non•union /ˈnɑːnˈjuːnjən/ *adj*

1 : not belonging to a labor union ▪ *nonunion* employees/workers ▪ They are cutting costs by using *nonunion* labor.

2 : not accepting labor unions ▪ *nonunion* employers : not having employees who are members of a labor union ▪ It's a *nonunion* construction firm.

non–union•ized *also Brit* **non–union•ised** /nɑnˈjuːnjəˌnaɪzd/ *adj* : NONUNION ▪ *non-unionized* employees ▪ a *non-unionized* company

non•ver•bal /ˈnɑːnˈvɚbəl/ *adj*

1 : not involving or using words ▪ Facial expressions are very important for *nonverbal* communication.

2 : not able to speak ▪ a *nonverbal* child

– **non•ver•bal•ly** *adv* ▪ People communicate a lot of information *nonverbally*.

non•vi•o•lence /ˈnɑːnˈvajələns/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the practice of refusing to respond to anything (such as unfair or violent acts by a government) with violence ▪ The group promotes *nonviolence*. ▪ Demonstration organizers are urging *nonviolence*.

non•vi•o•lent /ˈnɑːnˈvajələnt/ *adj* : not using or involving violence ▪ He argued that *nonviolent* drug offenders should receive shorter sentences. ▪ a *nonviolent* [=*peaceful*] protest against the war

– **non•vi•o•lent•ly** *adv* ▪ The group marched *nonviolently* to the courthouse to protest the decision.

non–West•ern /ˈnɑːnˈwɛstɚn/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to the part of the world that does not include the countries of western Europe and North America ▪ *non-Western* countries ▪ the *non-Western* world ▪ *non-Western* art/culture

non•white /ˈnɑːnˈwaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-whites** [*count*] : a person who is not a member of the white race : a person who does not have the light-colored skin of people whose ancestors were European ▪ The program is even less popular among *nonwhites*.

– **nonwhite** *adj* ▪ The city just elected its first *nonwhite* mayor. ▪ About half the students are *nonwhite*.

[1]noo•dle /ˈnuːdl̩/ *noun, pl* **noo•dles** [*count*] : a thin strip of dough that is made from flour, water, and eggs and that is cooked in boiling liquid ▪ Chinese/egg *noodles* ▪ chicken *noodle* soup [=soup made with chicken and noodles]

[2]noodle *verb* **noodles**; **noo•dled**; **noo•dling** [*no obj*] *US, informal*

1 : to play a musical instrument in an informal way without playing a particular piece of music ▪ He was just *noodling* around on the guitar.

2 : to think about something in a way that is not very serious ▪ It's a thought I've been *noodling* around with for some time.

noog•ie /ˈnʊgi/ *noun, pl* **-ies** [*count*] *US, informal* : the act of rubbing your knuckles on a person's head to cause annoyance or slight pain ▪ The boys gave each other *noogies*.

nook /ˈnʊk/ *noun, pl* **nooks** [*count*]

1 : a small space or corner that is inside something ▪ an old house full of ***nooks and crannies***

2 : a part of a room (such as a corner) that is used for a specific purpose ▪ a breakfast *nook* ▪ a cozy *nook* perfect for reading

3 *literary* : a quiet place that is sheltered by a tree, rock, etc. ▪ We found a shady *nook* under an old oak tree.

every nook and cranny : every part or place ▪ We searched *every nook and cranny*. [=we searched everywhere] ▪ He knows *every nook and cranny* of that engine.

nooky *or* **nook•ie** /ˈnʊki/ *noun* [*noncount*] *slang* : the act of having sex ▪ guys looking for a little *nookie*

noon /ˈnuːn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the middle of the day : 12 o'clock in the daytime ▪ Meet me at/around *noon*. ▪ half past *noon* ▪ The party will take place from *noon* to 4 p.m. ▪ He showed up at precisely 12 *noon*. — often used before another noun ▪ the *noon* meal/hour ▪ the hot *noon* sun — see also HIGH NOON

morning, noon, and night see MORNING

noon•day /ˈnuːnˌdeɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *literary* : the middle of the day : MIDDAY — usually used before another noun ▪ the heat of the *noonday* sun

no one *pronoun* : no person : NOBODY ▪ We called, but *no one* answered. ▪ *No one* has ever done this before. ▪ There's *no one* else here. ▪ *No one* knows her better than I do. ▪ The news came as a surprise to *no one*. [=nobody was surprised by the news]

noon•time /ˈnuːnˌtaɪm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : NOON ▪ The traffic gets heavy around/at *noontime*. — often used before another noun ▪ the *noontime* meal/sun

noose /ˈnuːs/ *noun, pl* **noos•es** [*count*] : a large loop at the end of a rope that gets smaller when you pull the rope and that is used to hang people, to capture animals, etc. ▪ the hangman's *noose*

tighten the noose : to make a situation more difficult for someone ▪ The new tougher penalties will *tighten the noose* on traffic offenders. ▪ They *tightened the noose* around the enemy by cutting the supply lines.

nope /ˈnoʊp/ *adv, informal* : [1]NO ▪ "Have you finished the book yet?" "Nope." — compare YEP

nor /ˈnoɚ/ *conj*

1 — used after *neither* to show something is also not true, possible, allowed, etc. ▪ It's neither good *nor* bad. ▪ I neither know *nor* care what they think. ▪ Neither you *nor* I *nor* anyone else will tell him. ▪ His problems are neither my business *nor* yours. ✧ When *neither* and *nor* are used to join two subjects, the verb should agree with the subject that is closer to it. ▪ *Neither* my mother *nor* I am going there today. — see also *neither here nor there* at [1]HERE

2 — used after a negative statement to introduce a related negative word or statement ▪ She's not the best student in her class, (but) *nor* is she the worst. ▪ He didn't quit his job, *nor* was he fired. ▪ He is not going to the meeting (and) *nor* am I. ▪ (*formal*) "I don't know her." "*Nor* do I." [=neither do I; I don't know her either]

Nor•dic /ˈnoədɪk/ *adj* : of or relating to Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and sometimes Finland and Iceland, or to the people who live there ▪ the *Nordic* countries ▪ *Nordic* languages ▪ She looks very *Nordic*. [=she has the skin, hair, and eye color of a person who lives in Scandinavia]

nor'easter *variant spelling of* NORTHEASTER 2

norm /ˈnoəm/ *noun, pl* **norms**

1 *norms* [*plural*] : standards of proper or acceptable behavior ▪ social/cultural *norms*

2 *the norm* : an average level of development or achievement ▪ She scored well above/below *the norm* in math.

3 *the norm* : something (such as a behavior or way of doing something) that is usual or expected ▪ Smaller families have become *the norm*. ▪ Women used to stay at home to take care of the children, but that's no longer *the norm*.

[1]nor•mal /ˈnoəməl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : usual or ordinary : not strange ▪ a *normal* day ▪ He had a *normal* childhood. ▪ These little setbacks are a *normal* part of life. ▪ Our *normal* [=*regular*] business hours are from nine to five. ▪ a potato twice as big as *normal* size ▪ Despite her illness, she was able to lead a *normal* life. ▪ ***Under/In normal circumstances*** [=*normally, usually*], this wouldn't be a problem.

2 : mentally and physically healthy ▪ They had a *normal*, healthy baby. ▪ *Normal* people don't react that way. ▪ It's (perfectly) *normal* to feel that way. ▪ After being very ill, he is finally back to ***his normal self***. [=he is feeling better]

– **nor•mal•ly** *adv* ▪ The drug is *normally* used for depression. ▪ Rainfall amounts are higher than would *normally* be expected. ▪ *Normally*, I would say no, but this time I'll make an exception. ▪ The dog is not behaving *normally*.

[2]normal *noun* [*noncount*] : the usual or expected state, level, amount, etc. ▪ Your blood pressure is higher than *normal*. ▪ Let's hope everything returns to *normal* soon. ▪ I'm glad that things are back to *normal*. ▪ Oil prices are above/below *normal*.

nor•mal•cy /ˈnoəməlsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : a normal condition or situation : NORMALITY ▪ Let's hope for an end to the war and a return to *normalcy*.

nor•mal•i•ty /noəˈmæləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a condition or situation in which things happen in the normal or expected way ▪ I'm trying to maintain a sense/semblance of *normality*.

nor•mal•ize *also Brit* **nor•mal•ise** /ˈnoəməˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es; -ized; -iz•ing** *formal* : to bring (someone or something) back to a usual or expected state or condition [+ *obj*] The drug *normalizes* heart/liver function. ▪ The talks are aimed at *normalizing* relations between the countries. [*no obj*] It took years for the political situation in the country to *normalize*.

– **nor•mal•i•za•tion** *also Brit* **nor•mal•i•sa•tion** /ˌnoəməlaˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌnɔːməˌlaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

Nor•man /ˈnoəmən/ *noun, pl* **-mans** [*count*]

1 : one of the people from northern Europe and France who conquered England in 1066

2 : a person born, raised, or living in Normandy

– **Norman** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ the *Norman* conquest [=the time when Normans conquered England in 1066] ▪ *Norman* architecture

nor•ma•tive /ˈnoəmətɪv/ *adj, formal* : based on what is considered to be the usual or correct way of doing something ▪ *normative* rules of ethics ▪ *normative* tests/grammar

Norse /ˈnoəs/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : the language of ancient Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Iceland

2 *the Norse* : the people of ancient Norway, Sweden, Denmark, or Iceland ▪ *The Norse* arrived in the ninth century.

– **Norse** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *Norse* mythology ▪ the *Norse* sagas

[1]north /ˈnoəθ/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : the direction that is to your left when you are facing the rising sun : the direction that is the opposite of south ▪ The nearest town is 20 miles to the *north* (of here). ▪ The wind is coming from the *north*. ▪ Which way is *north*? — see also MAGNETIC NORTH, TRUE NORTH

2 *the north* or *the North* : regions or countries north of a certain point ▪ The birds migrate from *the North*.; *especially* : the northern part of the U.S. ▪ Parts of *the North* were hit hard by the storm. ▪ I grew up in *the North*. ▪ The American Civil War was between *the North* and the South.

[2]north *adj*

1 : located in or toward the north ▪ the *north* entrance/coast ▪ *North* America

2 : coming from the north ▪ a *north* wind

[3]north *adv* : to or toward the north ▪ Turn *north* onto Elm Street. ▪ It's a few miles *north* of here. ▪ The bird is found as far *north* as Canada.

up north *informal* : in or to the northern part of a country or region ▪ She spent a few years *up north*. ▪ We'll be heading *up north* for the summer. — compare *down south* at [3]SOUTH

north•bound /ˈnoəθˌbaʊnd/ *adj* : going or heading north ▪ a *northbound* train ▪ The *northbound* lanes are closed.

[1]north•east /noəθˈiːst/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : the direction between north and east

2 *the northeast* or *the Northeast* : the northeastern part of a country or region ▪ A mountain range is in *the northeast* of the country.; *especially* : the northeastern part of the U.S. ▪ Parts of *the Northeast* were hit hard by the storm. ▪ I grew up in *the Northeast*.

[2]northeast *adj*

1 : located in or toward the northeast ▪ *northeast* India ▪ My office is in the *northeast* corner of the building.

2 : coming from the northeast ▪ a *northeast* wind

[3]northeast *adv* : to or toward the northeast ▪ It's a few miles *northeast* of here. ▪ We left the city and headed *northeast*.

north•east•er /noəθˈiːstə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a strong wind that blows from the northeast

2 *or* ***nor'•east•er*** /noəˈiːstə/ : a storm with winds that blow from the northeast

north•east•er•ly /noəθˈiːstəli/ *adj*

1 : located in or moving toward the northeast ▪ They sailed in a *northeasterly* direction.

2 : blowing from the northeast ▪ *northeasterly* winds

north•east•ern /noəθˈiːstən/ *adj*

1 : located in or toward the northeast ▪ the *northeastern* corner of the state

2 : of or relating to the northeast ▪ a *northeastern* bird

north•east•ern•er *or* **North•east•ern•er** /noəθˈiːstənə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person born, raised, or living in the northeast; *especially* : a person born, raised, or living in the northeastern U.S.

north•east•ward /noəθˈiːstwəd/ *also chiefly Brit* **north•east•wards** /noəˈiːstwədz/ *adv* : toward the northeast ▪ The storm is moving *northeastward*.

– **northeastward** *adj* ▪ The storm will follow a *northeastward* course.

north•er•ly /ˈnoəðəli/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : located in or moving toward the north ▪ the more *northerly* latitudes ▪ We sailed in a *northerly* direction.

2 : blowing from the north ▪ *northerly* winds

– **northerly** *adv* ▪ The storm is headed *northerly*. ▪ We sailed *northerly* around the island.

north•ern /ˈnoəðən/ *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : located in or toward the north ▪ *northern* Europe ▪ the *northern* part of the state

2 : of or relating to the north ▪ a *northern* species ▪ *northern* winters/cities

north•ern•er *or* **Northerner** /ˈnoəðənə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person born, raised, or living in the north; *especially* : a person born, raised, or living in the northern U.S. — compare SOUTHERNER

Northern Lights *noun*

the Northern Lights : large areas of green, red, blue, or yellow light that sometimes appear in the night sky in far northern regions — called also *aurora borealis*

north•ern•most /ˈnoəðənˌmoʊst/ *adj* : furthest to the north ▪ the *northernmost* tip of the island

North Pole *noun*

the North Pole : the most northern point on the surface of the earth

North Star *noun*

the North Star : a bright star that can be seen in the sky in northern parts of the world when you look directly toward the north — called also *the Pole Star*

north•ward /ˈnoəθwəd/ *also chiefly Brit* **north•wards** /ˈnoəθwədz/ *adv* : toward the north ▪ The storm is moving *northward*.

– **northward** *adj* ▪ a *northward* advance/retreat

[1]north•west /noəθˈwɛst/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : the direction between north and west

2 *the northwest* or *the Northwest* : the northwestern part of a country or region ▪ A mountain range is in *the northwest* of the country.; *especially* : the northwestern part of the U.S. ▪ We traveled throughout *the Northwest*. ▪ ***the Pacific North-***

west [=the northwestern part of the U.S. near the Pacific coast]

[2]northwest *adj*
1 : located in the northwest ▪ *northwest* China ▪ the *northwest* corner of the building
2 : blowing from the northwest ▪ a *northwest* wind

[3]northwest *adv* : to or toward the northwest ▪ It's about 80 miles *northwest* of here. ▪ I headed *northwest* on Route 1.

north•west•er•ly /noəθ'wɛstəli/ *adj*
1 : located in or moving toward the northwest ▪ The storm is headed in a *northwesterly* direction.
2 : blowing from the northwest ▪ *northwesterly* winds
– **northwesterly** *adv* ▪ We sailed *northwesterly*.

north•west•ern /noəθ'wɛstən/ *adj*
1 : in, toward, or from the northwest ▪ the *northwestern* corner of the state
2 : of or relating to the northwest ▪ a *northwestern* bird

north•west•ern•er *or* **North•west•ern•er** /noəθ'wɛstənə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person born, raised, or living in the northwest; *especially* : a person born, raised, or living in the northwestern U.S.

north•west•ward /noəθ'wɛstwəd/ *also chiefly Brit* **north•west•wards** /noəθ'wɛstwədz/ *adv* : toward the northwest ▪ The storm is moving *northwestward*.
– **northwestward** *adj* ▪ The storm will follow a *northwestward* course.

Nor•we•gian /noə'wi:ʤən/ *noun, pl* **-gians**
1 [*count*] : a person born, raised, or living in Norway
2 [*noncount*] : the language of Norway
– **Norwegian** *adj* ▪ the *Norwegian* government ▪ She lives in the U.S., but she's *Norwegian*.

nos *plural of* [3]NO

nos. *abbr* numbers

[1]nose /'noʊz/ *noun, pl* **nos•es**
1 [*count*] : the part of the face or head through which a person or animal smells and breathes ▪ The ball hit me right on/in the *nose*. ▪ You need to wipe/blow your *nose*. ▪ Stop picking your *nose*. ▪ I have a runny/stuffy *nose*. ▪ the long *nose* of the anteater ▪ He got some water up his *nose*. ▪ She wrinkled her *nose* in disgust. — see picture at FACE
2 [*singular*] : the ability to smell things : the sense of smell ▪ That dog has a good *nose*. — often used figuratively ▪ He is a good reporter with a ***nose for*** news. [=he's a reporter who is good at finding news] ▪ a baseball scout with a *nose for* talent [=a scout who is good at finding new talent]
3 : the front end or part of something [*count*] — usually singular ▪ the *nose* of an airplane [*noncount*] The whale measures 40 feet from *nose* to tail. ▪ (*Brit*) The cars were ***nose to tail*** [=(*US*) *bumper-to-bumper*] on the highway today. — see picture at AIRPLANE
4 [*singular*] *of wine* : a particular smell ▪ The wine has a lovely *nose*. [=*bouquet*]

as plain as the nose on your face *informal* : very clear or obvious ▪ The solution is *as plain as the nose on your face*.

by a nose ✧ If an animal wins a race *by a nose*, it wins by a very short distance. ▪ Secretariat won the race *by a nose*!

cut off your nose to spite your face : to do something that is meant to harm someone else but that also harms you ▪ You can refuse to talk to her if you like, but you're just *cutting off your nose to spite your face*.

follow your nose see FOLLOW

get up someone's nose *Brit, informal* : to annoy or irritate (someone) ▪ His jokes are really beginning to *get up my nose*. [=(*US*) *get on my nerves*]

have your nose in ✧ If you *have your nose in* a book, magazine, newspaper, etc., you are reading it. ▪ It seems like she always *has her nose in* a book [=she's always reading a book] whenever I see her.

hold your nose : to hold your nostrils together so that you cannot smell something ▪ The smell was so bad that we had to *hold our noses*.

keep your nose clean : to stay out of trouble by behaving well ▪ He is a former criminal who has *kept his nose clean* since he got out of prison.

keep your nose out of : to avoid becoming involved in (someone else's situation, problem, etc.) ▪ It's not your problem, so *keep your nose out of* it.

lead someone (around) by the nose *informal* : to completely control a person ▪ I'm amazed that he lets them *lead him around by the nose* like that.

look down your nose at see [1]LOOK

nose in the air ✧ If you have your *nose in the air*, you behave in a way that shows you think you are better than other people. ▪ She walks around with her *nose in the air* like she's some big shot.

nose to the grindstone see GRINDSTONE

no skin off my nose see [1]SKIN

on the nose *informal* : very accurate : done very accurately ▪ You hit it *on the nose*. [=you are exactly right] ▪ Her prediction was right *on the nose*.

pay through the nose *informal* : to pay a very high price ▪ I found the perfect dress, but I *paid through the nose* for it.

powder your nose see [2]POWDER

rub someone's nose in see [1]RUB

stick/poke your nose in/into : to get involved in or want information about (something that does not concern you) ▪ He's always *poking his nose into* other people's business.

thumb your nose at see [2]THUMB

turn up your nose *or* ***turn your nose up*** : to refuse to take or accept something because it is not good enough ▪ I offered the cat some food, but it *turned up its nose* and walked away. — usually + *at* ▪ They *turned up their nose at* our offer. [=they rejected our offer]

under your nose — used to describe something that you fail to see or notice even though you should ▪ I don't know why you couldn't find it—it's right here *under your nose*. ▪ They were embezzling funds ***right under his nose***. ▪ The answer was *right under our noses* [=the answer was very obvious] the whole time.

[2]nose *verb* **noses**; **nosed**; **nos•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to push or move (something) with the nose ▪ The horse *nosed* my hand. ▪ Some animal must have *nosed* the lid off the garbage can. ▪ The dog *nosed* the door open.
2 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] *of an animal* : to search for or find something by smelling ▪ The dogs were *nosing* around in the garbage.
3 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to move forward slowly or carefully [*no obj*] The boat *nosed* around the bend. [+ *obj*] I *nosed* my car into the parking space. ▪ The car *nosed* its way into the street.

nose around *also Brit* ***nose about*** [*phrasal verb*] ***nose around/about*** *or* ***nose around/about (something)*** : to search for something (such as private or hidden information) in usually a quiet or secret way ▪ She caught him *nosing around* in her papers/office. ▪ The police *nosed around* the property for a while, but they didn't find anything.

nose out [*phrasal verb*] ***nose (someone or something) out*** *or* ***nose out (someone or something)*** **1** : to defeat (someone or something) by a small amount in a race or other competition ▪ My horse was/got *nosed out* at the finish line. ▪ The home team barely *nosed out* the visitors. **2** : to find (information) by careful searching ▪ The detective *nosed out* some interesting information on the suspect.

nose bag *noun, pl* ~ **bags** [*count*] *Brit* : FEEDBAG

[1]nose•bleed /'noʊz,bli:d/ *noun, pl* **-bleeds** [*count*] : a condition in which you are bleeding from your nose ▪ I had/got a *nosebleed*. ▪ She often suffers from *nosebleeds*.

[2]nosebleed *adj, always used before a noun, US, informal* : very high ▪ We had seats in the *nosebleed* section of the stadium.

nose cone *noun, pl* ~ **cones** [*count*] : the pointed front end of an aircraft, rocket, missile, etc.

nosed /'noʊzd/ *adj* : having a nose of a specified kind — used in combination with another adjective ▪ a long-*nosed* rodent ▪ a snub-*nosed* little girl — see also HARD-NOSED

nose•dive /'noʊz,daɪv/ *noun, pl* **-dives** [*count*]
1 : a sudden sharp drop made by an airplane with its front end pointing toward the ground ▪ The plane went ***into a nosedive***.
2 : a sudden sharp drop in price, value, condition, etc. ▪ The stock market took a *nosedive*.

nose–dive /'noʊz,daɪv/ *verb* **-dives**; **-dived**; **-div•ing** [*no obj*]
1 *somewhat informal* : to drop suddenly or sharply ▪ As demand fell, prices *nosedived*.
2 *of an aircraft* : to drop suddenly with the front end pointing toward the ground

nose•gay /'noʊz,geɪ/ *noun, pl* **-gays** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a small bouquet of flowers

nose•guard /'noʊz,gɑəd/ *noun, pl* **-guards** [*count*] *American football* : a defensive player who plays in a position that is directly opposite the offensive center — called also *nose tackle*

nose job *noun, pl* ~ **jobs** [*count*] *informal* : a medical oper-

ation on your nose to improve its appearance ▪ an actor who has had a *nose job*

nose ring *noun, pl* ~ **rings** [*count*]
1 : a piece of jewelry worn in your nose ▪ She had a *nose ring*.
2 : a ring put through an animal's nose to control it

nose tackle *noun, pl* ~ **tackles** [*count*] *American football* : NOSEGUARD

nosey *variant spelling of* NOSY

[1]nosh /ˈnɑːʃ/ *verb* **nosh·es**; **noshed**; **nosh·ing** [*no obj*] *informal* : to eat food — usually + *on* ▪ We *noshed on* chips.

[2]nosh *noun, pl* **nosh·es** *informal*
1 [*count*] *US* : a light meal : SNACK ▪ I'll just have a quick *nosh* before we go.
2 *Brit* **a** [*noncount*] : FOOD ▪ have some *nosh* **b** [*count*] : a serving of food : MEAL ▪ have a *nosh*

no–show /ˈnoʊˌʃoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-shows** [*count*] : someone who is expected to be somewhere but does not arrive or appear ▪ There were a lot of *no-shows* at the game. ▪ My sister made it to the party, but my brother was a *no-show*.

nosh–up /ˈnɑːʃˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : a very large meal

no–smoking *adj* — used to describe a place where people are not allowed to smoke ▪ This is a *no-smoking* [=(more commonly) *nonsmoking*] section.

nos·tal·gia /nɑˈstældʒə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : pleasure and sadness that is caused by remembering something from the past and wishing that you could experience it again ▪ A wave of *nostalgia* swept over me when I saw my childhood home. ▪ He was filled with *nostalgia* for his college days.
– **nos·tal·gic** /nɑˈstældʒɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *nostalgic* memories ▪ Seeing pictures of my old friends made me feel very *nostalgic*. ▪ They remained *nostalgic* about the good old days. – **nos·tal·gi·cal·ly** /nɑˈstældʒɪkli/ *adv* ▪ She spoke *nostalgically* about her childhood on the farm.

nos·tril /ˈnɑːstrəl/ *noun, pl* **-trils** [*count*] : one of the two openings of the nose ▪ My left *nostril* is stuffed up. ▪ She left in a rage, her *nostrils* flaring. — see picture at FACE

nos·trum /ˈnɑːstrəm/ *noun, pl* **-trums** [*count*]
1 *formal* : a suggested solution for a problem that will probably not succeed ▪ politicians repeating all the usual *nostrums* about the economy
2 *old-fashioned* : something that is used for treating illness, pain, etc., but that is not an accepted and effective medicine ▪ using garlic as a *nostrum* to prevent disease

nosy *also* **nos·ey** /ˈnoʊzi/ *adj* **nos·i·er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* + *disapproving* : wanting to know about other people's lives, problems, etc. ▪ *nosy* reporters/neighbors ▪ Don't be so *nosy*!

nosy par·ker /-ˈpɑɚkɚ/ *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly Brit, informal* + *disapproving* : a person who is too interested in what other people are doing : a nosy person

not /ˈnɑːt/ *adv*
1 a — used to form the negative of modal verbs (such as "should" and "could") and auxiliary verbs (such as "do" and "have") ▪ He would/could *not* stay. ▪ We have *not* spoken with them. ▪ It may *not* be fast, but it's reliable. ▪ That kind of behavior should *not* be allowed. ▪ He did *not* seem to care. **b** — used before a verb or clause to make it negative or give it an opposite meaning ▪ They gave us the option of *not* attending. ▪ She told me *not* to do it. ▪ You are *not* to go there without permission. ▪ He seemed *not* to care. ▪ It's odd, but ***that's not to say*** [=that does not mean] that it's bad. — see also *not to mention* at [1]MENTION
2 a — used with a word or phrase to make it negative or give it an opposite meaning ▪ The books are *not* here. ▪ No, that's *not* what I said. ▪ That's *not* funny! ▪ That is *not* necessarily true. ▪ You're *not* always right. ▪ You are *not* the only one who is worried. ▪ She is *not* (at all/very) pleased/happy. ▪ I'm *not* happy or sad, just bored. ▪ It is *not* as easy as it seems. ▪ Things are *not* going well. ▪ He is *not* guilty. ▪ He lives *not* far from here. ▪ "Are we there yet?" "*Not* quite." ▪ "Is there any left?" "*Not* much." ▪ It is ***not just/only/merely*** [=more than just] a novel; it is a literary classic. ▪ ***Not many*** [=*few*] people showed up. — see also *not a few* at [1]FEW **b** — used with a negative word to make a positive statement ▪ Their request is *not* unreasonable. [=their request is reasonable] ▪ His experience is *not* unusual. [=others have had similar experiences] ▪ "What do you think of the food?" "It's *not* bad." [=it's pretty good] **c** *informal* + *humorous* — used humorously at the end of a positive statement to show that you really meant the opposite ▪ That's very interesting—*not*! [=that's not interesting]
3 : less or fewer than ▪ He was standing *not* six feet away from me. ▪ The bullet passed *not* five inches from my head! ▪ *Not* all of us agree. [=some of us do not agree] ▪ *Not* everybody finds her work interesting. [=some people find her work boring]
4 — used to refer to a possible situation, condition, etc., that is different from or opposite to another situation, condition, etc. ▪ The planet is sometimes hard to see and sometimes *not*. [=and sometimes easy to see] ▪ It works in theory if *not* in practice. [=even if it doesn't work in practice] — often used in the phrase ***or not*** ▪ Believe it *or not* [=whether you believe me or don't believe me], we were there just last week. ▪ Ready *or not*, here I come! ▪ Like it *or not*, you'll do as he says. [=you'll do as he says whether you like or don't like it]
5 — used to give a negative answer to a question ▪ "Do you think they forgot?" "I hope *not*." ▪ "Should we go?" "I'd rather *not*." ▪ "Do you think it's true?" "Probably/Certainly *not*." ▪ "Do you mind?" "***Not at all***."
as like as not *or* ***like as not*** see [6]LIKE
more often than not : happening more than half the time ▪ He wins *more often than not*. [=he wins more than he loses] ▪ *More often than not*, I stay home instead of going out.
not a/one : no thing or person ▪ There was *not one* available taxi to be found. [=no taxis were available] ▪ *Not a/one* single person showed up. [=no one showed up] ▪ *Not a* word came out of her mouth.
not that — used to say that something said before is not important ▪ I tried to help, *not that* it mattered. [=but it did not matter] ▪ I saw him with some other woman, *not that* I care. [=but I don't care]

[1]no·ta·ble /ˈnoʊtəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : unusual and worth noticing : REMARKABLE ▪ a *notable* example/improvement ▪ There are a few *notable* exceptions.
2 : very successful or respected ▪ a *notable* author

[2]notable *noun, pl* **no·ta·bles** [*count*] : a famous or important person ▪ The guest list included such *notables* as the President and First Lady. ▪ They introduced her to all the local *notables*.

no·ta·bly /ˈnoʊtəbli/ *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : in a way that attracts or deserves attention ▪ Several senior executives were *notably* absent from the proceedings. ▪ The film's plot was *notably* lacking.
2 : especially or particularly ▪ Some patients, (most) *notably* the elderly and the very young, have greater risks.

no·ta·rize *also Brit* **no·ta·rise** /ˈnoʊtəˌraɪz/ *verb* **-riz·es**; **-rized**; **-riz·ing** [+ *obj*] *law* : to sign (a document) as a notary public

no·ta·ry public /ˈnoʊtəriˈpʌblɪk/ *noun, pl* **no·ta·ries public** *or* **notary pub·lics** [*count*] *law* : a person who has the authority to act as an official witness when legal documents are signed — called also *notary*

no·ta·tion /noʊˈteɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** *technical* : a system of marks, signs, figures, or characters that is used to represent information [*noncount*] musical/scientific *notation* [*count*] a mathematical *notation* for computer programming

[1]notch /ˈnɑːʧ/ *noun, pl* **notch·es** [*count*]
1 : a small cut that is shaped like a V and that is made on an edge or a surface ▪ Cut small *notches* at the corners of the fabric. ▪ The tool has a *notch* for prying out nails.
2 *US* : a narrow passage between mountains ▪ The town is on the other side of the *notch*.
3 : a slightly higher or lower level in a series of levels that measure something ▪ Turn the radio up/down a *notch*. [=up/down slightly] ▪ They turned the volume up several *notches*. ▪ This product is a *notch* [=*step*] above its competitors in quality and price. — see also TOP-NOTCH

[2]notch *verb* **notches**; **notched**; **notch·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to make a small cut in (something, such as wood) : to make a notch in (something) ▪ *Notch* the ends so that they fit together.
2 *informal* : to achieve or get (something) ▪ He *notched* his fifth victory this year. — often + *up* ▪ The team *notched up* another win in yesterday's game.
– **notched** /ˈnɑːʧt/ *adj* ▪ a jacket with a *notched* collar [=a collar that has a notch in it] ▪ a *notched* edge [=an edge with many notches in it]

[1]note /ˈnoʊt/ *noun, pl* **notes**
1 a [*count*] : a short piece of writing that is used to help someone remember something ▪ She wrote a *note* to remind herself about the appointment. ▪ I left you a *note* on the kitchen table. ▪ making/writing *notes* in the margins of a book ▪ She jotted down a few *notes* during the interview. ▪ I'll

make a ***mental note*** [=I'll try to remember] to reschedule the meeting. **b *notes*** [*plural*] : an informal written record of things that are said and done ▪ After class, I usually study my *notes* and read the next chapter. ▪ I can't come to class today. Would you mind ***taking notes*** for me? ▪ His secretary *took notes* during our meeting.

2 [*count*] **a :** a short piece of writing that gives you information : a brief comment or explanation ▪ Please include a brief *note* about where the picture was taken. ▪ He writes in the program *notes* that the play was inspired by his own childhood. ▪ The dictionary includes many ***usage notes***. [=short explanations about how a word or phrase is used] ▪ One ***final note***: tickets will be available at the door the night of the concert. — see also LINER NOTES **b :** a comment or added piece of information that is separate from the main writing of a book ▪ For further details, see the *notes* to Chapter 3. — see also FOOTNOTE

3 [*count*] : a short and usually informal letter ▪ Remember to send a thank-you *note* to the host of the party. ▪ This is just a brief *note* to say how much I enjoyed your party. ▪ Drop me a *note* while you're away. ▪ I have a handwritten *note* here from the governor. ▪ If you are out sick for more than one week, you will need a *note* from your doctor. ▪ The girl's kidnappers left a ***ransom note***. — see also MASH NOTE

4 [*count*] *music* **a :** a specific musical tone ▪ musical *notes* ▪ That *note*'s a B not a C. ▪ Despite a few wrong *notes*, the pianist gave a generally good performance. **b :** a written symbol that is used to show what note should be played and how long it should last — see also EIGHTH NOTE, HALF NOTE, QUARTER NOTE, SIXTEENTH NOTE, WHOLE NOTE

5 [*singular*] : a characteristic or quality that expresses a mood or feeling ▪ I detected a *note* of sadness in his voice. — often used after *on* ▪ Let's try to end our conversation *on* a lighter/happier *note*. ▪ If I may end *on* a personal *note*, I'd like to wish my father a happy 85th birthday! ▪ The party ended ***on a high note***. [=the party ended pleasantly or well] ▪ Their relationship ended ***on a sour note***. [=ended unpleasantly] — often used with *hit, strike* or *sound* ▪ The movie *hits* just the right *note* with young audiences. ▪ Her judgment rarely *strikes* a wrong *note*. ▪ In her chapter about rising oil prices, she *sounds* a cautionary *note*. ▪ Most reviewers loved the show, but one critic *struck* a discordant *note*, finding it "clichéd" and "predictable."

6 [*count*] *Brit* : BILL ▪ a ten-pound *note*

compare notes see [1]COMPARE

of note : important and deserving to be noticed or remembered ▪ American writers *of note* include Herman Melville, Mark Twain, and Emily Dickinson. ▪ historical events *of note*

take note : to notice or give special attention to someone or something ▪ She has been extremely successful in her own country, and now the rest of the world is beginning to *take note*. ▪ She *took note* of the exact time.

[2]note *verb* **notes; not•ed; not•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*

1 : to notice or pay attention to (something) ▪ You may have *noted* my late arrival. ▪ The thing to *note* here is that people are suffering. ▪ It's interesting to *note* how quickly things have changed. ▪ Their objections were ***duly noted***. — often + *that* ▪ Please *note that* the office will close today at noon. ▪ *Note that* I have enclosed full payment with this letter.

2 : to say or write (something) ▪ As one official *noted*, the situation has begun to get out of control. ▪ As *noted* above/earlier/previously, most people survive the disease. ▪ "They've asked us to leave," he *noted* with amusement. — often + *that* ▪ She said she was unaware of the problem and *noted that* everything was fine when she went home that night. ▪ It should be *noted*, however, *that* no one was injured in the accident. ▪ It's ***worth noting that*** he gave no reason for his decision.

note down [*phrasal verb*] ***note (something) down*** *or* ***note down (something)*** : to write down (a piece of information that you want to remember) ▪ Let me *note down* your telephone number. ▪ The police officer *noted down* the names of all the people present during the incident.

note•book /'noʊtˌbʊk/ *noun, pl* **-books** [*count*]

1 : a book with blank pages that is used for writing notes ▪ Take out your *notebook* and write down some of your ideas. ▪ She kept a *notebook* for her poetry.

2 : a small computer that is designed to be easily carried — called also *notebook computer*

not•ed /'noʊtəd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : famous or well-known ▪ She is a *noted* scholar specializing in Latin-American literature. — often + *for* ▪ The city is *noted for* its many restaurants and nightclubs. ▪ a judge *noted for* her fairness and intelligence

note•pad /'noʊtˌpæd/ *noun, pl* **-pads** [*count*] : sheets of paper that are attached at one end and used for writing notes : PAD ▪ I wrote down her number on my *notepad*. — see picture at OFFICE

note•pa•per /'noʊtˌpeɪpɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : paper that is suitable for writing notes and letters

note•wor•thy /'noʊtˌwɚði/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : important or interesting enough to be noticed : deserving attention : NOTABLE ▪ He gave several *noteworthy* performances during his short career. ▪ Nothing *noteworthy* happened that evening. ▪ Her art is *noteworthy* for its great quality and beauty. ▪ a *noteworthy* feat/achievement

– **note•wor•thi•ness** /'noʊtˌwɚðinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

not–for–profit *adj, chiefly US* : not existing or done for the purpose of making a profit : NONPROFIT ▪ a *not-for-profit* organization

noth•er *or* **'noth•er** /'nʌðɚ/ *adj*

whole nother *US, informal* : completely different ▪ That's a *whole nother* story/issue. [=that's a whole other story/issue; that's a story/issue that is completely different from the one we have been talking about] ▪ He has taken his performance to a *whole nother* level. [=to a completely different and much higher level]

[1]noth•ing /'nʌθɪŋ/ *pronoun*

1 : not anything : not a thing ▪ There's *nothing* in my hands. ▪ She knows *nothing* of/about our plans. ▪ You have *nothing* to worry about. ▪ "What are you doing?" "*Nothing* (much)." ▪ There's *nothing* fun to do around here. ▪ I have *nothing* against them. [=I do not dislike or resent them] ▪ We'll accept *nothing* less than a full refund. [=we will only accept a full refund] ▪ It costs *nothing* for the first month. [=you do not have to pay anything for the first month] ▪ The phone call was *nothing* more than a sales pitch. [=it was just a sales pitch and not anything else] ▪ They live on practically *nothing*. [=no money] ▪ This has ***nothing to do with*** you. [=it does not involve you in any way] ▪ There's ***nothing else*** [=no more] to say. ▪ ***If nothing else***, you should send him a card. [=you should at least send him a card] ▪ I've had ***next to nothing*** to eat. [=I have had very little to eat] ▪ He could ***make nothing of*** the coded message. [=he could not understand the coded message at all] ▪ We discussed plans for a new project, but ***nothing came of*** them. [=we did not do anything about what we discussed] ▪ He ***left nothing to*** chance. [=he planned for every possibility] ▪ The food ***leaves nothing to be desired***. [=the food is excellent] ▪ Their children ***lack/want for nothing***. [=their children have everything they need] ▪ Why should they help? There's ***nothing in it for them***. [=they will not gain anything for themselves by helping] ▪ It looks like ***nothing so much as*** a big stick. [=it looks very much like a big stick] ▪ Those kids are ***nothing but*** trouble. [=they are always causing trouble] ▪ He is ***nothing if not*** persistent. [=he is extremely persistent] ▪ "I'm quitting school." "You'll do ***nothing of the sort***!" [=you will not do that; I will not allow you to do that] ▪ She'll ***stop at nothing*** [=she will do anything] to get what she wants. ▪ She finished up ***in nothing flat***. [=in no time at all; very quickly] — see also GOOD-FOR-NOTHING

2 : someone or something that has no interest, value, or importance ▪ Money is *nothing* to them. [=they do not care at all about money] ▪ You think that's bad? It's *nothing* compared to what I went through. ▪ Don't get all upset over *nothing*. ▪ "Thanks for your help." "It was *nothing*." [=it was no trouble] ▪ Your opinion means *nothing* to me. ▪ "Are you hurt?" "Don't worry. It's *nothing*." ▪ All our work came to *nothing*. = All our work resulted in *nothing*. ▪ He's *nothing* to me now. [=I don't care about him at all now]

double or nothing see [3]DOUBLE

have nothing on see HAVE

here goes nothing see [1]HERE

nothing daunted see DAUNT

nothing doing *informal* — used as a forceful way of saying "no" to a question or suggestion ▪ He asked her to lend him the money, but she said *nothing doing*. [=she said that she would definitely not lend him the money] ▪ "Why don't you try it?" "*Nothing doing*." [=no way; definitely not]

nothing else for it *or Brit* ***nothing for it*** *old-fashioned* — used to say that something must be done because there is no other choice ▪ By the time we discovered the mistake, there was *nothing else for it* but to start over. ▪ We don't want to sell the house, but there is *nothing else for it* (but to sell).

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nothing in/to ✧ If you say that there is *nothing in/to* something, you mean that it is not true at all. ▪ There's *nothing to* the story/claim. ▪ There is *nothing in* the rumor.

nothing like **1** — used to say that something is very enjoyable or satisfying ▪ There's *nothing like* a cool swim on a hot day. **2** *Brit, informal* : not nearly ▪ The report is *nothing like* thorough enough.

nothing to it — used to say that something is very easy to do ▪ There's really *nothing to it* once you know how.

on a hiding to nothing see ²HIDING

to say nothing of see ¹SAY

²nothing *adv* : not at all : in no way ▪ She is *nothing* like her sister. ▪ It's *nothing* close to finished.

nothing less than **1** — used to give emphasis to a description ▪ The idea is *nothing less than* revolutionary. [=the idea is revolutionary] **2** — used to say that something is the least that a situation, person, etc., requires or will accept ▪ He demands *nothing less than* the best service. [=he demands the best service] ▪ I want *nothing less than* a full refund! ▪ This job requires *nothing less than* our best effort.

nothing short of — used to give emphasis to a description ▪ His recovery was *nothing short of* miraculous. [=his recovery was miraculous] ▪ That treatment is *nothing short of* torture!

³nothing *noun, pl* **-things**

1 [*noncount*] : empty space ▪ It appeared out of *nothing*. ▪ The UFO hovered for a while, then vanished into *nothing*.

2 [*noncount*] : the number 0 : ZERO ▪ (*chiefly US*) The score is two (to) *nothing*. ▪ (*Brit*) She is five foot *nothing* [=she is exactly five feet tall] without her shoes on.

3 : someone or something that has little or no worth, importance, or influence [*count*] I knew her back when she was a *nothing*. [=*nobody*] [*noncount*] My children are important to me—I'm *nothing* without them. ▪ Today was a *nothing* day. [=nothing interesting or important happened today]

for nothing **1** : without reason ▪ It's not *for nothing* that they put her in charge. ▪ We did all that work *for nothing*. [=we did all that work when we did not need to] **2** : at no charge : for free ▪ He gave it to me *for nothing*. ▪ You can't get something *for nothing*.

sweet nothings : loving and romantic words ▪ He whispered *sweet nothings* in her ear.

noth·ing·ness /ˈnʌθɪŋnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : empty space ▪ He was staring into *nothingness*.

2 : the state of being no longer seen, heard, or felt : NONEXISTENCE ▪ The sound faded into *nothingness*. ▪ philosophers who feel that when we die, we pass into *nothingness* [=we no longer exist]

¹no·tice /ˈnoʊtəs/ *noun, pl* **-tic·es**

1 [*noncount*] **a** : information that tells you or warns you about something that is going to happen ▪ Please give us enough *notice* to prepare for your arrival. ▪ They gave no advance *notice* that they were moving. [=they did not tell anyone that they were moving before they did it] ▪ Terms of the agreement are subject to change ***without notice***. [=terms of the agreement may be changed without telling you before they are changed] ▪ The beach is closed ***until further notice***. [=until there is an announcement saying that it is open] ▪ I received ***written notice*** that my bank account will be credited. [=I received a letter telling me that my bank account will be credited] ▪ The senator ***served notice*** [=made it known] that he will be opposing the new regulations. ▪ With the success of her first film, she *served notice* [=*showed*] that she is a serious and talented director. **b** : a statement telling someone that an agreement, job, etc., will end soon ▪ She gave her landlord *notice* (that she is moving next month). ▪ I gave (my employer) two weeks' *notice*. [=I told my employer that I would be quitting my job in two weeks] ▪ My boss gave me two weeks' *notice*. [=my boss told me that I would be losing my job in two weeks]

2 [*noncount*] : attention that people give to someone or something ▪ Her red dress attracted *notice*. [=her red dress made people look at her; people noticed her red dress] ▪ The band first ***came to public notice*** in 1991. [=the public first heard about the band in 1991] ▪ The error ***escaped my notice***. [=I did not notice the error] ▪ ***Take no notice*** of them. [=ignore them] ▪ No one ***took much notice*** of her [=no one paid much attention to her] at the party. ▪ The team has been playing better recently, and people are starting to ***(sit up and) take notice***. [=are starting to notice and give attention to the team's improved play] ▪ He ***brought the problem to my notice***. [=he brought the problem to my attention; he told me about the problem]

3 [*count*] : a written or printed statement that gives information ▪ *Notices* were sent to parents about the school trip. ▪ The *notice* [=*sign*] said, "BEACH CLOSED." ▪ Did you see the *notice* about the meeting? ▪ Newspapers print *notices* of marriages and deaths.

4 [*count*] : a short piece of writing that gives an opinion about a play, book, etc. ▪ The play received good *notices*. [=*reviews*]

at a moment's/minute's notice *or US* ***on a moment's/minute's notice*** *or* ***at short notice*** *or US* ***on short notice*** : immediately after you have been told about something ▪ They're prepared to help us *at/on a moment's notice*. [=as soon as we tell them that we need their help] ▪ They can be ready to go *at/on a moment's notice*. ▪ She had to leave on a business trip *at/on* (very) *short notice*.

on notice *formal* : warned or told about something ▪ The police are *on notice* to have more security at the concert. [=the police have been warned to have more security at the concert] ▪ She ***put us on notice*** [=she told us in a very definite and forceful way] that she would not be available for interviews until after the trial.

²notice *verb* **-tices; -ticed; -tic·ing** [+ *obj*] : to become aware of (something or someone) by seeing, hearing, etc. ▪ He *noticed* his friend sitting at the next table. = He *noticed* that his friend was sitting at the next table. ▪ She *noticed* a smell of gas. ▪ You didn't *notice* that I got my hair cut. ▪ She *noticed* me leaving the meeting early. ▪ The police *noticed* [=*observed*] a connection between the murders. ▪ I *noticed* an error in the book. ▪ The problem was first *noticed* several days ago. ▪ I ***couldn't help noticing*** the spot on his tie. = I ***couldn't help but notice*** the spot on his tie. [=I saw the spot even though I wasn't trying to look for it]

get noticed : to get attention that you want from other people ▪ You'll *get noticed* in that new sports car. = That new sports car will *get* you *noticed*. ▪ a young actor who's trying to *get noticed* ▪ The band *got noticed* by a record producer. [=a record producer showed interest in the band]

no·tice·able /ˈnoʊtəsəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : able to be easily seen or noticed ▪ The spot on your shirt is very *noticeable*. ▪ There has been a *noticeable* improvement in her behavior. ▪ a *noticeable* change/difference in the weather ▪ It was *noticeable* that they were not prepared to give the presentation.

– **no·tice·ably** /ˈnoʊtəsəbli/ *adv* ▪ The sound got *noticeably* louder. ▪ Test scores were *noticeably* higher the next year.

no·tice·board /ˈnoʊtəsˌboəd/ *noun, pl* **-boards** [*count*] *Brit* : BULLETIN BOARD 1

no·ti·fi·able /ˌnoʊtəˈfajəbəl/ *adj, formal* : required by law to be reported to the government or to the proper officials ▪ a *notifiable* disease

no·ti·fi·ca·tion /ˌnoʊtəfəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** : something that gives official information to someone : the act of notifying someone [*noncount*] I was given no *notification* that you received my payment. [*count*] You will be sent a written *notification*.

no·ti·fy /ˈnoʊtəˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies; -fied; -fy·ing** [+ *obj*] : to tell (someone) officially about something ▪ She *notified* [=*informed*] the police about the accident. ▪ Customers were *notified* of the changes in the company. ▪ I was *notified* that I did not get the job.

no·tion /ˈnoʊʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] : an idea or opinion ▪ He has some pretty strange *notions*. ▪ I only have a (slight) *notion* of the poem's meaning. ▪ She had a vague *notion* about what happened. ▪ They have different *notions* [=*conceptions*] of right and wrong. ▪ The study disproves any *notion* that dolphins are not intelligent.

2 [*count*] : an idea about doing something : a sudden wish or desire ▪ She had a *notion* to try skydiving.

3 ***notions*** [*plural*] *US* : small useful things (such as pins, thread, buttons) that are used for sewing ▪ a sewing shop that sells fabrics, books, tools, and *notions*

no·tion·al /ˈnoʊʃənl/ *adj* : existing as an idea rather than as something real ▪ The *notional* earnings of the company were close to the actual ones.

– **no·tion·al·ly** *adv*

no·to·ri·ety /ˌnoʊtəˈrajəti/ *noun* : the condition of being famous or well-known especially for something bad : the state of being notorious [*noncount*] He achieved instant fame and *notoriety* with the release of his film. ▪ She gained *notoriety* when nude photographs of her appeared in a magazine. [*singular*] His comment about the President has given him a *notoriety* that he enjoys very much.

no•to•ri•ous /noʊˈtorijəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : well-known or famous especially for something bad • The coach is *notorious* for his violent outbursts. • *notorious* [=*infamous*] cases of animal cruelty
– **no•to•ri•ous•ly** *adv* • The weather is *notoriously* difficult to predict.

[1]not•with•stand•ing /ˌnɑːtwɪθˈstændɪŋ/ *prep, formal* : without being prevented by (something) : DESPITE — used to say that something happens or is true even though there is something that might prevent it from happening or being true • *Notwithstanding* their youth and inexperience, the team won the championship. — often used after its object • The law was passed, our objections *notwithstanding*. [=the law was passed despite our objections]

[2]notwithstanding *adv, formal* : in spite of what has just been said : NEVERTHELESS • Although there are some who oppose the plan, we will go through with it *notwithstanding*.

nou•gat /ˈnuːgət, *Brit* ˈnuːˌgɑː/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a sweet candy that usually contains nuts or pieces of fruit

[1]nought /ˈnɑːt/ *noun, pl* **noughts** [*count, noncount*] *Brit* : the number 0 : ZERO • One million is a 1 with six *noughts* after it.

[2]nought *chiefly Brit spelling of* NAUGHT

noughts and crosses *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : TIC-TAC-TOE

noun /ˈnaʊn/ *noun, pl* **nouns** [*count*] : a word that is the name of something (such as a person, animal, place, thing, quality, idea, or action) and is typically used in a sentence as subject or object of a verb or as object of a preposition — see also COMMON NOUN, COUNT NOUN, NONCOUNT NOUN, PROPER NOUN

noun phrase *noun, pl* ~ **phrases** [*count*] : a group of words that acts like a noun in a sentence • In the sentence "I found the owner of the dog," "the owner of the dog" is a *noun phrase*.

nour•ish /ˈnɚɪʃ/ *verb* **-ish•es; -ished; -ish•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to provide (someone or something) with food and other things that are needed to live, be healthy, etc. • Plants are *nourished* [=*fed*] by rain and soil. • Vitamins are added to the shampoo to *nourish* the hair. • a well-*nourished* baby
2 : to cause (something) to develop or grow stronger • a friendship *nourished* by trust • Her parents *nourished* [=*supported*] her musical talent.

nour•ish•ing /ˈnɚɪʃɪŋ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : providing the things that are needed for health, growth, etc. : giving nourishment • This cereal is more *nourishing* [=*nutritious*] than that one. — often used figuratively • The sermon was spiritually *nourishing*. [=*enriching*]

nour•ish•ment /ˈnɚɪʃmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : food and other things that are needed for health, growth, etc. • These children are suffering because they lack proper/adequate *nourishment*. • Soil provides *nourishment* to plants. — often used figuratively • intellectual *nourishment* • emotional/spiritual *nourishment*

nous /ˈnaʊs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit, informal* : the intelligence and ability to make good judgments and decisions • At least he had the foresight and *nous* [=*common sense*] to sell his stocks when he did.

nou•veau riche /ˌnuːvoʊˈriːʃ/ *noun, pl* **nou•veaux riches** /ˌnuːvoʊˈriːʃ/ [*count*] *disapproving* : a person who has recently become rich and who likes to spend a lot of money
– **nouveau riche** *adj* • Our *nouveau riche* neighbors just bought some expensive but tacky furniture.

nou•velle cuisine /nuˈvɛl-/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a modern style of cooking in which light, healthy food is prepared and served in an attractive way

Nov. *abbr* November

no•va /ˈnoʊvə/ *noun, pl* **no•vas** *or* **no•vae** /ˈnoʊvi/ [*count*] *astronomy* : a star that suddenly increases greatly in brightness and then within a few months or years becomes less bright again — see also SUPERNOVA

[1]nov•el /ˈnɑːvəl/ *noun, pl* **-els** [*count*] : a long written story usually about imaginary characters and events • write/publish/read a *novel* • a detective/romance/science-fiction *novel*

[2]novel *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : new and different from what has been known before • a *novel* idea • She has suggested a *novel* approach to the problem. • Handheld computers are *novel* devices.

nov•el•ist /ˈnɑːvəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who writes novels

no•vel•la /noʊˈvɛlə/ *noun, pl* **-las** [*count*] : a short novel : a story that is longer than a short story but shorter than a novel

nov•el•ty /ˈnɑːvəlti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**
1 [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being new, different, and interesting • The toy's *novelty* soon wore off. [=the toy became uninteresting in a short time] • the *novelty* of space exploration
2 [*count*] **a** : something that is new or unusual : something novel • Electric-powered cars are still *novelties*. • Eating shark meat is a *novelty* to many people. **b** : something unusual and entertaining that is popular for a short period of time — usually used before another noun • *novelty* songs • The band was a ***novelty act*** that had two hits and then disappeared.
3 [*count*] : a small and unusual decoration or toy • *Novelties* filled the shelves. — often used before another noun • a *novelty* shop/item

No•vem•ber /noʊˈvɛmbɚ/ *noun, pl* **-bers** : the 11th month of the year [*noncount*] in (early/middle/mid-/late) *November* • early/late in *November* • We arrived on *November* the fourth. = (*US*) We arrived on *November* fourth. = We arrived on the fourth of *November*. [*count*] Sales are up (for) this *November* in comparison with the previous two *Novembers*. • It happens every *November*. — abbr. *Nov.*

nov•ice /ˈnɑːvəs/ *noun, pl* **nov•ic•es** [*count*]
1 : a person who has just started learning or doing something • He's a *novice* in cooking. • a *novice* [=*beginner*] at skiing • a book for the *novice* chess player
2 : a new member of a religious group who is preparing to become a nun or a monk

no•vi•tiate /noʊˈvɪʃət/ *noun, pl* **-tiates** [*count*] : the time when a person is a religious novice

no•vo•caine /ˈnoʊvəˌkeɪn/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medicine* : a drug that causes part of your body to feel no pain and that is used especially by dentists

[1]now /ˈnaʊ/ *adv*
1 : at the present time • We were having trouble before, but everything's okay *now*. • I'm feeling much better *now*, thank you. • I love you *now* and I'll love you forever. • *Now*'s the time for action. • "And *now*," he said, "all we have to do is wait." • "Can we talk?" "Not *now*. I'm really busy." • The room is *now* used as a home office. = They *now* use the room as a home office. • He knows *now* that he was wrong. • Police have *now* identified the man who they believe stole the car. • Scientists *now* believe that the bones belong to a different species of reptile. • the *now* famous photograph of an American sailor kissing his young wife • I wish I knew then what I know *now*. • This is the only chance you'll ever get. ***It's now or never***. — often used to show that you are annoyed about something • *Now* you tell me?! I needed to know that yesterday! • You tracked dirt everywhere! *Now* I have to spend all day cleaning again! • "I know you've explained a lot—but can I ask just one more question?" "What *now*?" = "What is it *now*?" = "*Now* what?" • OK: I'll do it your way. Are you happy *now*?
2 : in the next moment : very soon • I have to leave *now*. [=*right now, right away, immediately*] • It's time to go home *now*. • If I don't do it *now*, I'll forget to do it later. • They'll be back any minute *now*! • Any day *now*, he'll be walking through that door. • *Now* which way do we go? • What do I do *now*? • What *now*? = *Now* what? [=what next?]
3 : in the present situation • He'll never believe me *now*! • If you can't stand the heat *now*, you certainly won't be able to stand it in the summer.
4 : at the time referred to in the past • Her parents arrived home the next day. *Now* the trouble really began. • I next met her again a few years later. She was *now* 30 years old and working for a law firm.
5 : for an amount of time until the present time • It's been several years *now* since I last saw her. [=I haven't seen her for several years] — often used with *for* • We've lived here *for* a long time *now*. = We've lived here *for* some time *now*. • She has been teaching *for* 20 years *now*. = She has been teaching *now for* 20 years.
6 — used to make a command or request or to express criticism or disapproval • Hurry up, *now*, class started three minutes ago. • *Now*, Billy, that's no way to talk to your mother! • *Now* you be sure to write, you hear? • Well, *now*, what is this I hear about you going back to school? • Come *now*. You know that's not true. = (*chiefly US*) Come on, *now*. You know that's not true. • *Now*, which one of you kids broke the window? • *Now*, you listen to me. • *Now* see here!

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7 — used to introduce an important idea or to show a change in subject ▪ *Now*, I'd like to call your attention to the statue in the middle of the room. ▪ "What's the meaning of life?" "*Now* that's what I call a really important question!" ▪ *Now* that was a great song! ▪ *Now* where was I? Oh yes, I was telling you about my Uncle Harry. ▪ *Now* you've done it! ▪ *Now* don't get too excited. ▪ *Now* who could that be? ▪ ***Now then***, what shall we do next? ✧ The phrase ***now for*** is often used to introduce a different idea or activity. ▪ That was an easy question. *Now for* something a bit more challenging. ▪ *Now for* today's top news stories.

8 *literary* : at one moment : SOMETIMES ▪ *now* one and *now* another ▪ She was *now* laughing, *now* crying.

even now see ²EVEN

(every) now and then *also* ***(every) now and again*** : not often but sometimes ▪ We still see each other *(every) now and then*. ▪ *Now and then* she would come in to check on me. ▪ The silence in the house was broken *now and again* by the ringing of the telephone.

just now see ²JUST

now, now **1** — used to tell someone not to be worried or unhappy ▪ *Now, now*, don't cry. Everything will be all right. You'll see! **2** — used to express criticism or disapproval ▪ *Now, now*. There's no need to use that kind of language.

now you're talking see ¹TALK

right now see ²RIGHT

²now *conj* : since something is true : because of the fact that something happened ▪ *Now* you mention it, I am kind of hungry. — usually + *that* ▪ *Now that* you mention it, I am kind of hungry. ▪ *Now that* we're all here, let's start the meeting. = Let's start the meeting *now that* everyone's here.

³now *noun* [*singular*] : the present time or moment ▪ A lot of things can happen between *now* and then. ▪ ***By now***, you must have heard the news. = You must have heard the news *by now*. ▪ The kids are supposed to be in bed *by now*. ▪ That's enough ***for now***, but we may need some more later. ▪ Things are fine *for now*. ▪ Fifty years ***from now*** you'll be telling your grandchildren about this day. ▪ She's due back a week *from now*. ▪ We'll be here *from now* until November. ▪ I promise, ***from now on*** [=from this moment and forever into the future], I'll always tell you the truth. ▪ *From now on*, no one can use my car without my permission. ▪ ***Until now***, doctors had no idea what caused the disease. = ***Up to now***, they didn't know what caused it. — see also *here and now* at ¹HERE

now•a•days /ˈnawəˌdeɪz/ *adv* : at the present time ▪ People don't wear hats much *nowadays*. ▪ *Nowadays* [=these days], many people need two jobs in order to make ends meet.

¹no•where /ˈnoʊˌweɚ/ *adv* : not in or at any place ▪ I have *nowhere* to go/sit/live. ▪ These facts are *nowhere* stated (in the book). ▪ *Nowhere* is there more of a population problem than in this city. ▪ The book is ***nowhere to be found*** = The book is ***nowhere to be seen*** = The book is ***nowhere in sight***

get nowhere **1** *or* ***go nowhere*** : to have no success at all in doing something : to make no progress ▪ I have *gotten nowhere* with my research. [=my research has been completely unsuccessful] ▪ The research is *going nowhere*. ▪ We're ***getting/going nowhere fast*** **2** ***get (someone) nowhere*** : to not help (someone) at all : to not make a situation any better for (someone) ▪ Arguing will *get us nowhere*. [=arguing will not help our situation]

nowhere near *informal* : not at all : not nearly ▪ Their house is *nowhere near* as nice as yours. ▪ That is *nowhere near* enough water. ▪ The house is *nowhere near* finished.

²nowhere *noun* [*noncount*] : no place — used figuratively ▪ They live ***miles from nowhere***. [=they live in a place that is very far from other people] ▪ We got lost ***in the middle of nowhere***. [=in a place far away from other people, houses, etc.]

from nowhere *or* ***out of nowhere*** — used to say that someone or something comes, appears, happens, etc., in a sudden and unexpected way ▪ The car came *out of nowhere*! ▪ Suddenly, *out of nowhere*, she offered me the job. ▪ Starting *from nowhere* [=with nothing], he built a very successful business. ▪ The horse came *from nowhere* to win the race. ▪ She rose to fame *out of nowhere*. ▪ ***From out of nowhere*** he asked her if she was having an affair.

no–win /ˈnoʊˈwɪn/ *adj, always used before a noun* — used to describe something (such as a situation) that cannot have a good result no matter what you do ▪ We're in a *no-win* situation. ▪ a *no-win* war ▪ She's stuck in a *no-win* job.

nowt /ˈnaʊt/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit, informal* : NOTHING ▪ There's *nowt* like it. ▪ He said *nowt*. ✧ *Nowt* is used in northern England.

nox•ious /ˈnɑːkʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : harmful to living things : TOXIC ▪ *noxious* fumes/waste

noz•zle /ˈnɑːzəl/ *noun, pl* **noz•zles** [*count*] : a short tube that is put on the end of a hose or pipe to control the way a liquid or gas flows out

nr *abbr, Brit* near

NRA *abbr* National Rifle Association ✧ The NRA is an organization that is active in supporting the rights of U.S. citizens to own guns.

NS *abbr* Nova Scotia

NSW *abbr* New South Wales

NT *abbr* **1** New Testament **2** Northern Territory **3** Northwest Territories

nth /ˈɛnθ/ *adj* — used to refer to an unknown number in a series of numbers ▪ I told him for the *nth* time that I would not support him. [=I told him again that I would not support him, as I have told him many times before]

to the nth degree : extremely : as much as possible ▪ He is dedicated *to the nth degree*. [=he is extremely dedicated]

nu•ance /ˈnuːˌɑːns, *Brit* ˈnjuːˌɑːns/ *noun, pl* **-anc•es** : a very small difference in color, tone, meaning, etc. [*count*] *nuances* [=*shades*] of color/meaning ▪ He listened to the subtle *nuances* in the song. [*noncount*] a poem of little depth and *nuance*

– **nu•anced** /ˈnuːˌɑːnst, *Brit* ˈnjuːˌɑːnst/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a complex and *nuanced* poem/story/painting

nub /ˈnʌb/ *noun, pl* **nubs** [*count*] : a small piece or end ▪ The dog chewed his bone down to a *nub*. : a small part that sticks out ▪ The shoes have little *nubs* on the bottom that prevent you from slipping.

the nub : the main part or point of something ▪ *the nub* of the story/problem/matter/argument

nu•bile /ˈnuːˌbajəl, *Brit* ˈnjuːˌbajəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : sexually attractive — used of a young woman ▪ a *nubile* young starlet

nu•cle•ar /ˈnuːklijɚ, *Brit* ˈnjuːklijə/ *adj, always used before a noun* **1 a** : of, relating to, producing, or using energy that is created when the nuclei of atoms are split apart or joined together ▪ *nuclear* [=*atomic*] weapons/bombs ▪ a *nuclear* (power) plant ▪ *nuclear* fuel ▪ *nuclear* waste [=waste materials that are created when nuclear energy is produced] **b** : having or involving nuclear weapons ▪ the *nuclear* [=*atomic*] age ▪ a *nuclear* war/attack ▪ *nuclear* powers [=countries that have nuclear weapons]

2 : of or relating to the nucleus of an atom ▪ *nuclear* [=*atomic*] physics/fission/fusion

nuclear energy *noun* [*noncount*] *physics* : energy that is created by splitting apart the nuclei of atoms — called also *atomic energy, nuclear power*

nuclear family *noun, pl* ~ **-lies** [*count*] : the part of a family that includes only the father, mother, and children — compare EXTENDED FAMILY

nuclear fission *noun* [*noncount*] : FISSION 1

nuclear–free *adj* : not having or allowing nuclear energy, weapons, or materials ▪ a *nuclear-free* zone/area

nuclear fusion *noun* [*noncount*] : FUSION 2

nuclear power *noun* [*noncount*] *physics* : NUCLEAR ENERGY

nuclear reaction *noun, pl* ~ **-tions** [*count*] *physics* : REACTION 5b

nuclear reactor *noun, pl* ~ **-tors** [*count*] *physics* : REACTOR

nu•cle•ic acid /nuˈkliːjɪk-/ *noun, pl* ~ **acids** [*count*] *technical* : any of various acids (such as DNA or RNA) that are found in living cells

nu•cle•us /ˈnuːklijəs/ *noun, pl* **nu•clei** /ˈnuːkliˌaɪ/ *also* **nu•cle•us•es** [*count*]

1 *biology* : the central part of most cells that contains genetic material and is enclosed in a membrane

2 *physics* : the central part of an atom that is made up of protons and neutrons

3 : a central or most important part of something — usually + *of* ▪ players who are the *nucleus* [=*core*] *of* the team

¹nude /ˈnuːd, *Brit* ˈnjuːd/ *adj*

1 : having no clothes on : NAKED ▪ The artists sketched the *nude* model.

2 : of or involving people who have no clothes on ▪ a *nude* movie scene ▪ a *nude* beach [=a beach where people wear no clothes] ▪ He took *nude* photos of her. [=he took photos of her when she was not wearing clothes]

3 : having the color of a white person's skin ▪ *nude* pantyhose

– **nude** *adv* ▪ She posed *nude* for the magazine.

[2]nude *noun, pl* **nudes** [*count*] **:** a painting, sculpture, etc., that shows a nude person ▪ the *nudes* of Greek sculpture

in the nude **:** without any clothes on ▪ He stood there *in the nude.*

nudge /ˈnʌʤ/ *verb* **nudg•es; nudged; nudg•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a :** to touch or push (someone or something) gently ▪ I *nudged* the plate closer to him. ▪ The guard *nudged* the prisoner forward. ▪ The dog *nudged* the ball with his nose. ▪ We *nudged* our way (through the crowd) to the exit. **b :** to push (someone) gently with your elbow in order to get that person's attention ▪ He *nudged* me and pointed to the deer.

2 [+ *obj*] **:** to encourage (someone) to do something ▪ He was *nudged* (by his parents) towards a career in law. ▪ The salesman *nudged* her into testing out the car.

3 a [+ *obj*] **:** to come close to (a particular level or amount) ▪ Album sales are *nudging* the one million mark. **b** *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] **:** to move slightly to a different level or amount ▪ The price of gold has *nudged* a little higher.

– **nudge** *noun, pl* **nudges** [*count*] ▪ He gave me a *nudge* in the ribs.

nud•ism /ˈnuːˌdɪzəm, *Brit* ˈnjuːˌdɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** the practice of not wearing any clothes especially in private places (such as camps or beaches) that are separated from public areas — called also (*Brit*) *naturism*

nud•ist /ˈnuːdɪst, *Brit* ˈnjuːdɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] **:** a person who practices nudism — called also (*Brit*) *naturist*

– **nudist** *adj* ▪ a *nudist* colony/resort

nu•di•ty /ˈnuːdəti, *Brit* ˈnjuːdəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** the state of having no clothes on **:** the condition of being nude ▪ The movie has scenes of *nudity*.

nug•get /ˈnʌgət/ *noun, pl* **-gets** [*count*]

1 : a solid lump of a valuable metal (such as gold) ▪ gold *nuggets*

2 : a small, usually round piece of food ▪ chicken *nuggets*

3 : a piece of valuable information ▪ *nuggets* of wisdom/advice/information

nui•sance /ˈnuːsn̩s, *Brit* ˈnjuːsn̩s/ *noun, pl* **-sanc•es** [*count*] **:** a person, thing, or situation that is annoying or that causes trouble or problems — usually singular ▪ The sticky clay was a *nuisance* to work with. [=was difficult to work with] ▪ My allergies are a *nuisance* in the springtime. ▪ Filling out all the paperwork was a *nuisance*. ▪ I'm sorry to be such a *nuisance* [=I'm sorry to bother you], but I need your help again. ▪ He ***made a nuisance of himself***. [=he behaved in an annoying way] ▪ (*law*) The landfill was declared a ***public nuisance***.

[1]nuke /ˈnuːk, *Brit* ˈnjuːk/ *noun, pl* **nukes** [*count*] *informal* **:** a nuclear weapon

[2]nuke *verb* **nukes; nuked; nuk•ing** [+ *obj*] *informal*

1 : to attack or destroy (something) with a nuclear weapon

2 : to heat or cook (food) in a microwave oven **:** MICROWAVE ▪ *nuke* a pizza

null /ˈnʌl/ *adj, law* **:** having no legal power ▪ The contract was declared *null*. [=*invalid*] — often used in the phrase ***null and void*** ▪ The law was declared *null and void*.

nul•li•fy /ˈnʌləˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies; -fied; -fy•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (something) legally null ▪ The law has been *nullified* by the U.S. Supreme Court.

2 : to cause (something) to lose its value or to have no effect ▪ The penalty *nullified* the goal. ▪ Drinking coffee does not *nullify* [=*negate*] the effects of alcohol.

num. *abbr* numeral

[1]numb /ˈnʌm/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : unable to feel anything in a particular part of your body because of cold, injury, etc. ▪ The side of my face was still *numb* an hour after the surgery. ▪ I had a *numb* feeling in my toes. ▪ It was so cold that my fingers ***went numb***. ▪ A stroke can cause one side of your body to *go numb*.

2 : unable to think, feel, or react normally because of something that shocks or upsets you ▪ Her son had died and she just felt *numb*. ▪ He stood there *numb* with fear/rage.

– **numb•ly** *adv* ▪ They moved *numbly* through their routine.

– **numb•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] A stroke can cause *numbness* in one side of your body. [*singular*] The patient was complaining of a *numbness* in her fingers.

[2]numb *verb* **numbs; numbed; numb•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause (a part of the body) to be unable to feel anything ▪ The injection will *numb* the area to be operated on. ▪ The cold wind *numbed* my face.

2 : to make (someone) unable to think, feel, or react normally ▪ She was *numbed* by the news of her son's death.

– **numbing** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ the *numbing* cold ▪ We had to sit through a *numbing* [=very boring] lecture. — see also MIND-NUMBING – **numb•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ a *numbingly* cold wind ▪ These tasks are *numbingly* repetitive.

[1]num•ber /ˈnʌmbɚ/ *noun, pl* **-bers**

1 [*count*] **:** a word or symbol (such as "five" or "16") that represents a specific amount or quantity ▪ the *number* seven ▪ He wrote down two *numbers* [=*numerals*]: 3 and 9. ▪ the *numbers* and letters on a license plate ▪ a three-digit *number* like 429 ▪ Think of a *number* between one and one hundred. ▪ The *number* 7¾ is greater than the *number* 7.25. ▪ 2, 4, 6, and 8 are ***even numbers***; 1, 3, 5, and 7 are ***odd numbers***. ▪ Let's say I have $100 to spend—that's a nice, ***round number***. [=a number that is easily multiplied, divided, etc., and especially a number that ends in zero] — see also CARDINAL NUMBER, ORDINAL NUMBER, PRIME NUMBER, WHOLE NUMBER

2 [*count*] **a :** a number or a set of numbers and other symbols that is used to identify a person or thing ▪ a student's ID/identification *number* ▪ Never give out your credit card *number* to anyone over the phone. ▪ What's the account *number* on your electricity bill? ▪ The page *numbers* are on the top corner of each page. ▪ Today's winning lottery *numbers* are 17, 8, and 46. ▪ I'm waiting for the *number* 3 bus. ▪ Flight *number* 101 from Los Angeles to London is now boarding at Gate *number* 36. ▪ What's the answer to question *number* 6? ▪ My daughter's the pitcher, *number* 21. — abbr. *No.* or *no.*; see also REGISTRATION NUMBER, SERIAL NUMBER, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER **b :** a person who is identified by a number and not treated in a personal or friendly way ▪ We get to know each of our customers and make sure that they don't feel like they're just a *number*. ▪ a large university where the students are just *numbers* **c :** PHONE NUMBER ▪ What's your work/office/daytime *number*? ▪ My home *number* is (413) 555-2917. ▪ Call our toll-free *number*. ▪ Did you get her *number*? = Did she give you her *number*? ▪ Well, you've got my *number*. Give me a call sometime. ▪ "May I speak with Sara, please?" "I'm sorry. You must have the ***wrong number***." — see also 800 NUMBER

3 a : the total amount of people or things [*count*] Fish were once plentiful in this river, but they have since declined ***in numbers***. [=there are now fewer fish than there once were] ▪ New houses are being built ***in record numbers***. [=more new houses are being built now than ever before] — often + *of* ▪ Were you surprised by the *number of* people who came to the party? ▪ More should be done to decrease the *number of* violent crimes in the city. ▪ Large *numbers of* people have left. [=many people have left] ▪ Serious side effects were observed in a small *number of* patients. [=a few patients had serious side effects] ▪ A ***good number of*** college students [=many college students] have entered the competition. ▪ There are ***a number of*** [=*several*] different options to choose from. ▪ Some students have already been absent on *a number of* occasions. ▪ The dish can be prepared in ***any number of*** ways. [=many different ways] ▪ Residents have left the city for *any number of* reasons. [*noncount*] They have declined ***in number***. [=there are not as many of them as there were before] ▪ The protesters were few *in number*, but they were very loud. **b *numbers*** [*plural*] **:** a large group of people or things ▪ There's ***safety/strength in numbers***. [=people are safer/stronger when they are together in a group] ▪ They won the battle through sheer ***weight of numbers***. [=they won because there were so many of them]

4 [*count*] **a** — used to indicate the position of someone or something in a numbered list or series ▪ You're *number* 7 on the waiting list. ▪ Now serving *number* 28. — abbr. *No.* or *no.* **b :** the version of a magazine, newspaper, etc., that is published at a particular time ▪ The article is in volume 36, *number* 2 of this journal. ▪ (*Brit*) the June *number* [=(*US*) *issue*] of the magazine — abbr. *No.* or *no.*

5 [*singular*] *formal* **:** a group of people ▪ One of their *number* [=one of them] went missing.

6 [*count*] **:** a song or dance that is usually performed as part of a concert or performance ▪ For his final *number* he sang "Heartbreak Hotel." ▪ The actors broke into a song and dance *number*.

7 [*count*] *informal* **:** someone or something that is attractive or desirable ▪ She wore a cute little black *number* [=a small attractive black dress] to the dance. ▪ I just bought a new car: a fast, blue *number*. ▪ I'm going to ask that hot *number* [=attractive girl or woman] over there if she'll dance with me.

8 *numbers* [*plural*] **:** numbers that show amounts of money

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that are spent, earned, or needed ▪ We won't be able to stay in business with *numbers* like these! ▪ I'm afraid the *numbers* just don't make your idea a profitable option. ▪ I don't know if we can afford it. I have to look at the *numbers*. ▪ I ***ran the numbers*** [=determined the amount of money to be spent, earned, etc.], and I just don't think we can afford it. ▪ When we sat down to ***crunch the numbers*** [=to calculate exactly how much money is available, needed, etc.] we realized that we couldn't afford a new car.

9 *numbers* [*plural*] *chiefly US* **a :** numbers that show how many people are listening to or watching a particular radio or television program ▪ The network looked at the show's *numbers* and decided to cancel it. **b :** numbers that show how a person (such as an athlete) has performed in the past ▪ Her *numbers* [=*statistics, stats*] make her the team's most valuable player. ▪ I don't remember all of his *numbers*, but I know he made 63 home runs last year.

10 *numbers* [*plural*] *US* **:** a gambling game in which people bet on which numbers will be chosen each day ▪ playing the *numbers* — often used before another noun ▪ an illegal *numbers* game ▪ the *numbers* racket

11 [*noncount*] *grammar* **:** the quality of a word form that shows whether the word is singular or plural ▪ A verb and its subject must agree ***in number.*** [=if the subject is the singular, the verb must be singular; if the subject is plural, the verb must be plural]

bad/good (etc.) with numbers **:** bad, good, etc., at using numbers (such as for adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing) ▪ What's 43 times 12? Oh, I don't know—I'm *bad/lousy with numbers*. [=I am bad at mathematics] ▪ Ask her to do the books, she's *good with numbers*.

beyond number *formal + literary* **:** too many to count ▪ a paradise inhabited by animal species *beyond number* ▪ The stars are *beyond number*.

by numbers *or US* ***by the numbers*** **:** in a way that follows the rules or instructions but that is not interesting or original ▪ Dancing *by the numbers* isn't good enough. You have to really feel the music.

do a number on *informal* **:** to have a very bad effect on (someone or something) **:** to hurt or damage (someone or something) ▪ This heavy backpack is *doing a number on* my back. ▪ The scandal really *did a number on* his career.

have someone's number *informal* **:** to be able to deal with or defeat someone easily especially because you know or understand that person so well ▪ She thinks she's *got my number*, but I'm going to prove her wrong.

without number *formal* **:** too many to count ▪ This area has been inhabited for years *without number*. [=for very many years]

your number is up ✧ If *your number is up*, you are about to suffer or die. ▪ You never know when *your number is up*. [=when you will die]

²number *verb* **-bers; -bered; -ber•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **:** to give a number to (someone or something in a series) **:** to label or identify (people or things in a series) with a number ▪ She *numbers* and arranges the photographs according to when they were taken. ▪ For the quiz, take out a sheet of paper and *number* it from one to ten. [=write the numbers one through ten down the side of the paper] ▪ Each print is signed and *numbered* by the artist. ▪ The team's coach bought all the players *numbered* jerseys.

2 — used to indicate a total amount [*linking verb*] The population now *numbers* about 400,000. [=the population is now about 400,000] ▪ In that year, European settlers in the area *numbered* nearly 15,000. ▪ Though his years *number* only 45 [=though he is only 45 years old], he looks like an old man. [*no obj*] The animal, which once *numbered* in the millions, is now extinct.

3 *somewhat formal* **:** to include (someone or something) as part of a larger group — + *among* or *with* [+ *obj*] She *numbers among* her friends three Nobel Prize winners. = She *numbers* three Nobel Prize winners *among* her friends. [=three of her friends are Nobel Prize winners] ▪ He *numbers* her *with* the other great poets of the time. — usually used as *(be) numbered* ▪ John Keats *is numbered* [=*ranked*] *among* the greatest English poets. ▪ I am proud to *be numbered among* those who have served our country. [*no obj*] She *numbers among* the best. [=she is one of the best]

days are numbered — used to say that someone or something will die, fail, or end soon. ▪ The doctors have told me that my *days are numbered*. [=I will die soon]. ▪ He knew that his *days* as the team's coach *were numbered*. [=that he was going to be fired from his job as the team's coach soon] ▪ The *days* of large gas-guzzling cars *are numbered*. [=people will not be making/buying large gas-guzzling cars for much longer]

number cruncher /-ˈkrʌnʧɚ/ *noun, pl* **~ -ers** [*count*] **:** a person who collects and studies information in the form of numbers ▪ The *number crunchers* in Washington are expecting a budget surplus by the fall. ▪ the company's *number crunchers*

– number crunching *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ doing some *number crunching*

num•ber•less /ˈnʌmbɚləs/ *adj, literary* **:** too many to count ▪ the *numberless* [=*countless*] stars in the sky

¹number one *or* **No. 1** *noun* [*noncount*]

1 a : a person, thing, or position that is highest in rank **:** the most important person or thing in a group of people or things ▪ Who's *number one* in this office? ▪ Getting the car fixed is *number one* on my list of priorities. ▪ I'll tell you why we can't go on a vacation: *number one*, we can't afford it, and number two, we'll miss my sister's party. ▪ Two of their songs have gone to *number one* [=the highest rank] on the pop charts. **b :** the most successful person or thing in a group of people or things ▪ Her movie is currently *number one* at the box office. ▪ When the goal was scored, the fans started to chant, "We're *number one*, we're *number one*."

2 : your own happiness, health, or success **:** YOURSELF ▪ I've been taking care of other people for too long. It's time for me to take care of *number one*. ▪ If you don't ***look out for number one*** [=if you don't take care of yourself], who will?

3 *informal* **:** liquid waste from the body **:** URINE — used mainly by children or when speaking to children; compare NUMBER TWO

²number one *or* **No. 1** *adj* **:** highest in rank or importance ▪ Heart disease is the country's *number one* [=*leading*] killer of women. ▪ My *number one* [=*main*] concern is getting my car fixed. ▪ The book is the company's *number one* seller. ▪ Rule *number one* is don't get caught! ▪ He's ***public enemy number one*** the nation's most wanted criminal.

number plate *noun, pl* **~ plates** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* **:** LICENSE PLATE

number sign *noun, pl* **~ signs** [*count*] *US* **:** ³POUND

Number Ten *or* **Number 10** *noun* [*singular*] *Brit*

1 : the place in London where the British Prime Minister lives

2 : the British government

number two *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* **:** solid waste from the body — used mainly by children or when speaking to children; compare NUMBER ONE 3

numb•skull *also* **num•skull** /ˈnʌmˌskʌl/ *noun, pl* **-skulls** [*count*] *informal* **:** a stupid or foolish person ▪ Why did you do that? How can you be such a *numbskull*?

nu•mer•al /ˈnu:mərəl, *Brit* ˈnju:mərəl/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] **:** a symbol (such as 1, 2, or 3) that represents a number — see also ARABIC NUMERAL, ROMAN NUMERAL

nu•mer•a•tor /ˈnu:məˌreɪtɚ, *Brit* ˈnju:məˌreɪtə/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] *mathematics* **:** the number in a fraction that is above the line and that is divided by the number below the line ▪ The *numerator* in the fraction ⅗ is 3. — compare DENOMINATOR

nu•mer•ic /nʊˈmerɪk, *Brit* njʊˈmɛrɪk/ *adj* **:** of or relating to numbers ▪ a *numeric* code/system ▪ a *numeric* keypad

nu•mer•i•cal /nʊˈmerɪkəl, *Brit* njʊˈmɛrɪkəl/ *adj* **:** of or relating to numbers or a system of numbers ▪ The files are organized according to a *numerical* system. ▪ a *numerical* code ▪ The files are in *numerical* order.

– nu•mer•i•cal•ly /nʊˈmerɪkli, *Brit* njʊˈmɛrɪkli/ *adv* ▪ The files are organized *numerically*.

nu•me•ro uno /ˈnu:mərouˈu:nou/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US, informal* **:** ¹NUMBER ONE 1 ▪ The company is *numero uno* in computer technology.

nu•mer•ous /ˈnu:mərəs, *Brit* ˈnju:mərəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *somewhat formal* **:** existing in large numbers ▪ They had *numerous* [=*many*] friends. ▪ She decided to leave for *numerous* reasons. ▪ The birds are becoming more *numerous* in this area. ▪ The people I'd like to thank are ***too numerous to mention/list*** [=there are so many of them that I can't mention all their names]

nu•mi•nous /ˈnu:mənəs, *Brit* ˈnju:mənəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal + literary* **:** having a mysterious, holy, or spiritual quality ▪ Her poetry is filled with a *numinous* beauty.

nu•mis•mat•ics /ˌnu:məzˈmætɪks, *Brit* ˌnju:məzˈmætɪks/

noun [*noncount*] : the study or act of collecting of coins, paper money, and medals
– **nu•mis•mat•ic** /ˌnu:məzˈmætɪk, *Brit* ˌnju:məzˈmætɪk/ *adj* ▪ a *numismatic* error – **nu•mis•ma•tist** /nuˈmɪzmətɪst, *Brit* njuˈmɪzmətɪst/ *noun, pl* **-tists** [*count*]

numskull *variant spelling of* NUMBSKULL

nun /ˈnʌn/ *noun, pl* **nuns** [*count*] : a woman who is a member of a religious community and who usually promises to remain poor, unmarried, and separate from the rest of society in order to serve God — compare MONK

nun•cio /ˈnʌnsijoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-ci•os** [*count*] : a person who is the Pope's representative in a foreign country

nun•nery /ˈnʌnəri/ *noun, pl* **-ner•ies** [*count*] *literary + old-fashioned* : a place where nuns live : CONVENT

nup•tial /ˈnʌpʃəl/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : of or relating to marriage or a wedding ceremony ▪ *nuptial* vows

nup•tials /ˈnʌpʃəlz/ *noun* [*plural*] *formal* : a wedding or wedding ceremony ▪ He was to attend the *nuptials* of his sister. ▪ The *nuptials* will take place in the nearby church.

[1]nurse /ˈnɚs/ *noun, pl* **nurs•es** [*count*]
1 : a person who is trained to care for sick or injured people and who usually works in a hospital or doctor's office ▪ The *nurse* will take your blood pressure before the doctor sees you. ▪ *Nurse*, may I have some water? — see also CHARGE NURSE, LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE, REGISTERED NURSE
2 *old-fashioned* : a woman who is paid to take care of a young child usually in the child's home — see also WET NURSE

[2]nurse *verb* **nurses; nursed; nurs•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to take care of or help (someone who is sick or injured) ▪ The staff *nursed* me back to health. [=the staff took care of me until I was healthy again] ▪ She is *nursing* her son through his illness.
2 [+ *obj*] : to give special care or attention to (something) : to try to keep (something) from failing ▪ The couple *nursed* the business through hard times. ▪ He *nursed* the farm back to productivity. ▪ The team *nursed* a 1–0 lead until the last inning. ▪ The player is still out *nursing* an ankle injury. = The player is still out *nursing* her ankle. [=the player is caring for her injured ankle so that it will not get worse]
3 a [+ *obj*] : to feed (a baby or young animal) with milk from the mother's body ▪ She *nursed* [=*breast-fed, suckled*] her baby for several months. ▪ The dog *nursed* her puppies. **b** [*no obj*] *of a baby or young animal* : to take milk from the mother's body ▪ The baby *nursed* for several months. ▪ The puppies *nursed* for eight weeks.
4 [+ *obj*] : to hold (something, such as an idea or a strong feeling) in your mind for a long time ▪ He is not one to *nurse* a grievance/grudge. ▪ She *nursed* a secret desire to move to the city.
5 [+ *obj*] : to drink (something) very slowly over a long period of time ▪ He *nursed* his glass of wine.

nurse•maid /ˈnɚsˌmeɪd/ *noun, pl* **-maids** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a girl or woman whose job is to take care of children

nurse–mid•wife /nɚsˈmɪdˌwaɪf/ *noun, pl* **-wives** [*count*] : a nurse who is also a midwife and who delivers babies and cares for the mother and baby before and after the baby's birth

nurse prac•ti•tion•er /nɚsprækˈtɪʃənɚ/ *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a nurse who is trained to do some of the things a doctor does (such as give physical exams or order certain medical tests)

nurs•ery /ˈnɚsəri/ *noun, pl* **-er•ies**
1 [*count*] **a** *US* : the room where a baby sleeps ▪ She still needs to decorate the *nursery* before the baby comes. **b** : the room in a hospital where new babies are kept and cared for by nurses **c** *old-fashioned* : a room where children sleep, play, and are sometimes taught
2 [*count*] **a** : a place where plants (such as trees or shrubs) are grown and sold ▪ We get our flowers from a local *nursery*. **b** : a place where some young animals (such as fish) are grown ▪ salmon *nurseries*
3 *Brit* **a** [*count*] : a place where children are cared for during the day while their parents are working ▪ She dropped her daughter off at the (day) *nursery*. [=(*US*) day care center] **b** [*count, noncount*] : NURSERY SCHOOL

nurs•ery•man /ˈnɚsərimən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a person who owns or works in a place where plants are grown and sold

nursery rhyme *noun, pl* ~ **rhymes** [*count*] : a short poem or song for children

nursery school *noun, pl* ~ **schools** [*count, noncount*] : a school for very young children : PRESCHOOL

nursery slope *noun, pl* ~ **slopes** [*count*] *Brit* : BUNNY SLOPE

nurse's aide *noun, pl* ~ **aides** [*count*] *US* : a person whose job is to help nurses to take care of patients

nursing *noun* [*noncount*] : the job of taking care of people who are sick, injured, or old ▪ She has been employed in *nursing* for several years now. ▪ *Nursing* is difficult work. ▪ He went to ***nursing school***. [=a school that trains people to be nurses]

nursing home *noun, pl* ~ **homes** [*count*] : a place where people who are old or who are unable to take care of themselves can live and be taken care of

nur•tur•ance /ˈnɚʧɚrəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the love, care, and attention that you give to someone or something ▪ maternal *nurturance*

[1]nur•ture /ˈnɚʧɚ/ *verb* **-tures; -tured; -tur•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to help (something or someone) to grow, develop, or succeed ▪ Teachers should *nurture* their students' creativity. ▪ a professor who *nurtures* any student who shows true interest in history
2 : to take care of (someone or something that is growing or developing) by providing food, protection, a place to live, etc. ▪ The study looks at the ways parents *nurture* their children. ▪ You have to carefully *nurture* the vines if you want them to produce good grapes.
3 : to hold (something, such as an idea or a strong feeling) in your mind for a long time ▪ She *nurtured* a secret ambition to be a singer. ▪ *nurture* a dream/grudge
– **nur•tur•er** /ˈnɚʧɚrɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a *nurturer* of the weak ▪ She tends to be the *nurturer* in the family.

[2]nurture *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the care and attention given to someone or something that is growing or developing ▪ Members of the family helped in the *nurture* of the baby. ▪ Is our character affected more by nature or by *nurture*? [=by the way we are treated and taught to behave when we are young]

nut /ˈnʌt/ *noun, pl* **nuts**
1 [*count*] **a** : a small dry fruit with a hard shell that grows on trees, bushes, etc. ▪ The squirrel cracked/opened the *nut* and ate the meat inside. ▪ walnuts, almonds, peanuts, and other *nuts* — see picture on next page **b** : the inside part of a nut that is used as food ▪ The squirrel sat and ate the *nut*. ▪ Are you allergic to *nuts*? ▪ a bowl of *nuts* and raisins
2 [*count*] : a piece of metal that has a hole through it so that it can be screwed onto a bolt or screw — see picture at CARPENTRY; see also LUG NUT, WING NUT
3 [*count*] *informal* **a** : a crazy or strange person ▪ That guy is a real *nut*. **b** : a person who is very interested in or enthusiastic about something ▪ She's a real baseball/car/health/movie/travel *nut*.
4 *nuts* [*plural*] *informal + impolite* : a man's testicles ▪ He got kicked in the *nuts*.
a hard/tough nut (to crack) : a person or thing that is difficult to deal with, understand, or influence ▪ The team's defense is *a tough nut to crack*. ▪ The problem is *a hard nut to crack*. ▪ He's *a tough nut*, but I think I can get him to agree to the contract.
nuts and bolts : the basic parts or details of an activity, job, etc. ▪ She's still learning the *nuts and bolts* of the business. ▪ Tell me what the *nuts and bolts* of the plan involve.
soup to nuts see [1]SOUP
– **nut•like** /ˈnʌtˌlaɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ The cake had a *nutlike* [=*nutty*] taste.

nut–brown /ˈnʌtˈbraʊn/ *adj* : medium brown or dark brown in color ▪ *nut-brown* hair

nut•case /ˈnʌtˌkeɪs/ *noun, pl* **-cas•es** [*count*] *informal* : a crazy or very strange person ▪ He's a total/complete *nutcase*.

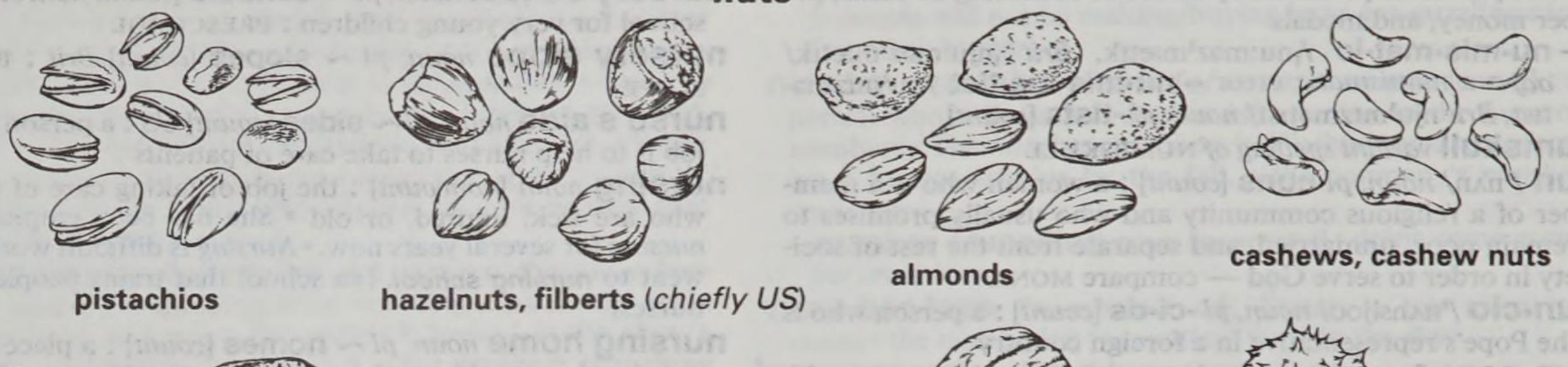
nut•crack•er /ˈnʌtˌkrækɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a tool or device that is used to open the shells of nuts

nut•hatch /ˈnʌtˌhæʧ/ *noun, pl* **-hatch•es** [*count*] : a small bird with a narrow beak and short tail

nut•house /ˈnʌtˌhaʊs/ *noun, pl* **-hous•es** [*count*] *US, informal + old-fashioned* : a hospital for people who are mentally ill — usually used figuratively ▪ This office is a *nuthouse*. [=a place where there is a lot of confusion, disorganization, etc.]

nut•meg /ˈnʌtˌmɛg/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a spice made from the hard seed of a tropical tree and used in cooking and baking

nu•tra•ceu•ti•cal /ˌnu:trəˈsu:tɪkəl, *Brit* ˌnju:trəˈsju:tɪkəl/ *noun, pl* **-cals** [*count*] *technical* : a specially treated food, vi-



tamin, mineral, herb, etc., that you eat or drink in order to improve your health

nu•tri•ent /ˈnu:trijənt, *Brit* ˈnju:trijənt/ *noun, pl* **-ents** [*count*] *technical* : a substance that plants, animals, and people need to live and grow ▪ Fruits and vegetables have important *nutrients*. ▪ The soil is low in *nutrients*. ▪ You need more *nutrients* in your diet.

– **nutrient** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ the *nutrient* composition of different foods ▪ The disease is caused by *nutrient* deficiencies.

nu•tri•tion /nʊˈtrɪʃən, *Brit* njʊˈtrɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the process of eating the right kind of food so you can grow properly and be healthy ▪ The speaker discussed diet and *nutrition* with the class. ▪ good *nutrition* and proper exercise

– **nu•tri•tion•al** /nʊˈtrɪʃənəl, *Brit* njʊˈtrɪʃənəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *nutritional* supplement [=a vitamin, herb, etc., that you take in order to help your body be healthy] ▪ the *nutritional* value of fruits and vegetables – **nu•tri•tion•al•ly** *adv* ▪ a *nutritionally* complete meal

nu•tri•tion•ist /nʊˈtrɪʃənɪst, *Brit* njʊˈtrɪʃənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person whose job is to give advice on how food affects your health

nu•tri•tious /nʊˈtrɪʃəs, *Brit* njʊˈtrɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having substances that a person or animal needs to be healthy and grow properly : promoting good health and growth ▪ highly *nutritious* salad greens ▪ The food was both *nutritious* and delicious.

nu•tri•tive /ˈnu:trətɪv, *Brit* ˈnju:trətɪv/ *adj, always used before a noun, technical* : of or relating to nutrition ▪ the *nutritive* value of certain grains

[1]nuts /ˈnʌts/ *adj, not used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal*

1 : CRAZY ▪ They looked at me like I was *nuts*. ▪ She's going to ***drive me nuts*** [=make me crazy; make me go insane] with her jealousy.

2 a : very enthusiastic about or interested in something — often + *about* ▪ He was *nuts* [=*crazy*] *about* baseball. **b** : feeling affection or love for someone or something — often + *for* or *about* ▪ She is *nuts for* children and animals. [=she loves children and animals] ▪ He's *nuts about* her. [=he's deeply in love with her]

go nuts **1** : to become mentally ill : to become insane ▪ She *went nuts* [=*went crazy*] and started to believe that everyone was trying to kill her. **2** : to act in a way that is wild or out of control because of strong emotion ▪ The crowd *went nuts* when the team won the championship. ▪ When Dad sees you broke the window, he's going to *go nuts*.

[2]nuts *interj, US, informal + old-fashioned* — used to express anger, disappointment, etc. ▪ Aw *nuts*! I broke my glasses!

nut•shell /ˈnʌtˌʃɛl/ *noun, pl* **-shells** [*count*] : the hard outer shell of a nut

in a nutshell : very briefly ▪ And that, *in a nutshell*, is what happened. ▪ ***To put it in a nutshell***, the party was a disaster.

nut•ter /ˈnʌtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : a crazy or strange person : NUT ▪ He's a complete *nutter*.

nut•ty /ˈnʌti/ *adj* **nut•ti•er**; **-est**

1 a : tasting or smelling like nuts ▪ candy with a *nutty* taste ▪ a *nutty* coffee **b** : containing nuts ▪ a *nutty* candy bar

2 *informal* **a** : silly, strange, or foolish ▪ What a *nutty* idea. ▪ He's got some *nutty* [=*weird*] friends. **b** : mentally ill ▪ Her aunt's a little *nutty*. [=*crazy*]

– **nut•ti•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ I noticed some *nuttiness* in the coffee's taste. ▪ the sheer *nuttiness* of the idea

nuz•zle /ˈnʌzəl/ *verb* **nuz•zles**; **nuz•zled**; **nuz•zling** : to gently push or rub your nose or face against (someone or something) to show affection [+ *obj*] She *nuzzled* his neck. ▪ The dog *nuzzled* my leg. [*no obj*] The dog *nuzzled* (up) against my leg. ▪ He *nuzzled* into her neck.

NV *abbr* Nevada

NW *abbr* northwest, northwestern

NWT *abbr* Northwest Territories

NY *abbr* New York

NYC *abbr* New York City

ny•lon /ˈnaɪˌlɑ:n/ *noun, pl* **-lons**

1 [*noncount*] : a strong material that is made from a chemical process and that is used for making clothes, ropes, and other products ▪ The rope is made of *nylon*. — often used before another noun ▪ a *nylon* rope

2 *nylons* [*plural*] : clothing for women made of nylon that fits closely over the feet and legs and goes up to the waist ▪ a pair of *nylons* [=*pantyhose, stockings*]

nymph /ˈnɪmf/ *noun, pl* **nymphs** [*count*]

1 *in stories* : a spirit in the shape of a young woman who lives in mountains, forests, meadows, and water

2 *technical* : a young insect that has almost the same form as the adult

nym•phet /nɪmˈfɛt/ *noun, pl* **-phets** [*count*] : a sexually attractive girl

nym•pho /ˈnɪmfoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-phos** [*count*] *informal* : NYMPHOMANIAC

nym•pho•ma•ni•ac /ˌnɪmfəˈmeɪniˌæk/ *noun, pl* **-acs** [*count*] : a woman who has an unusually strong desire to have sex very often

– **nym•pho•ma•ni•a** /ˌnɪmfəˈmeɪnijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *somewhat technical* ▪ a patient affected with *nymphomania*

NZ *abbr* New Zealand

O

o *or* **O** /ˈoʊ/ *noun, pl* **o's** *or* **os** *or* **O's** *or* **Os** /ˈoʊz/
1 : the 15th letter of the English alphabet [*count*] a word that starts with an *o* [*noncount*] a word that starts with *o*
2 [*count*] : the number zero — used in speech when referring to numbers ▪ I live in apartment number three *o* two. [=302]
3 [*count*] — used as a mark at the end of a letter, an e-mail, etc., to represent a hug ▪ XO, Mom

o' *also* **o** /ˈoʊ/ *prep* : ¹OF — used in some words and informally in some phrases ▪ jack-*o'*-lantern ▪ a cup *o'* tea

O *variant spelling of* ¹OH

oaf /ˈoʊf/ *noun, pl* **oafs** [*count*] : a stupid or awkward person — usually used for a man ▪ Get out of the way, you big *oaf*!
– **oaf·ish** /ˈoʊfɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ an *oafish* bore – **oaf·ish·ly** *adv* – **oaf·ish·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

oak /ˈoʊk/ *noun, pl* **oaks** *or* **oak**
1 [*count*] : a type of tree that grows in northern parts of the world and that produces acorns ▪ Tall *oaks* line the street. — called also *oak tree*; see also POISON OAK
2 [*noncount*] : the wood of an oak tree ▪ The table is solid *oak*. ▪ *oak* floors/chairs ▪ The cabinets are made of *oak*.
– **oak·en** /ˈoʊkən/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *oaken* [=(more commonly) *oak*] floors/chairs

OAP /ˌoʊˌeɪˈpi:/ *noun, pl* **OAPs** [*count*] *Brit, old-fashioned* : a person who is old enough to receive a government pension ▪ reduced prices for *OAPs* [=*senior citizens*] ✧ *OAP* is an abbreviation for "old-age pensioner."

oar /ˈoɚ/ *noun, pl* **oars** [*count*] : a long pole that is flat and wide at one end and that is used for rowing and steering a boat ✧ Oars are usually used in pairs with one oar on each side of the boat. ▪ She gripped the *oars* and began rowing the boat to shore. — see picture at BOAT; compare PADDLE
get/put/stick your oar in *Brit, informal* : to give people your opinion when they do not want it

oar·lock /ˈoɚˌlɑ:k/ *noun, pl* **-locks** [*count*] : a part that holds an oar in place on either side of a boat — called also (*Brit*) *rowlock*

oars·man /ˈoɚzmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a person who rows a boat especially as a member of a racing team — called also *rower*

oars·wom·an /ˈoɚzˌwʊmən/ *noun, pl* **-wom·en** /-ˌwɪmən/ [*count*] : a woman who rows a boat especially as a member of a racing team — called also *rower*

oa·sis /oʊˈeɪsəs/ *noun, pl* **oa·ses** /oʊˈeɪˌsi:z/ [*count*]
1 : an area in a desert where there is water and plants ▪ a desert *oasis*
2 a : a pleasant place that is surrounded by something unpleasant ▪ The small park is a welcome *oasis* amid the city's many factories. ▪ an *oasis* of quiet **b** : a time or experience that is pleasant and restful ▪ Our brief trip to the beach was a much-needed *oasis* in a summer of hard work.

oat /ˈoʊt/ *noun, pl* **oats**
1 [*noncount*] : a kind of grain that is widely grown — often used before another noun ▪ *oat* bran/flour
2 ***oats*** [*plural*] : the seeds of the oat plant used as feed for farm animals and in foods (such as bread and oatmeal) for people
feel your oats *US, informal* : to feel new confidence and energy ▪ He's really been *feeling his oats* since he was given that promotion.
sow your (wild) oats see ¹SOW

oath /ˈoʊθ/ *noun, pl* **oaths** /ˈoʊðz/ [*count*]
1 : a formal and serious promise to tell the truth or to do something ▪ They were required to take/swear an *oath* of loyalty. [=promise formally to remain loyal] ▪ an *oath* to defend the nation ▪ an ***oath of office*** [=an official promise by a person who has been elected to a public office to fulfill the duties of the office according to the law]
2 *old-fashioned* : an offensive or rude word that is used to express anger, frustration, surprise, etc. ▪ He uttered an *oath* and walked away.
under oath *also* ***on oath*** *law* : having made a formal promise to tell the truth in a court of law ▪ In a U.S. court of law, a witness must swear *under oath* to tell "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." ▪ He said in testimony given *under oath* that he was not there the night of the crime.

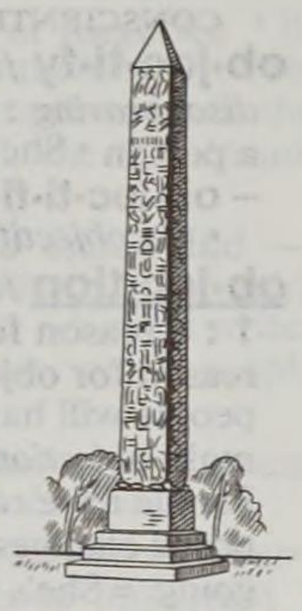
oat·meal /ˈoʊtˌmi:l/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : oats that have been ground into flour or flattened into flakes ▪ grinding oats into *oatmeal* — often used before another noun ▪ *oatmeal* cookies
2 *US* : a hot breakfast food that is made from oats ▪ a bowl of *oatmeal* — called also (*Brit*) *porridge*

ob·du·rate /ˈɑ:bdərət, *Brit* ˈɒbdjərət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : refusing to do what other people want : not willing to change your opinion or the way you do something : STUBBORN ▪ He is known for his *obdurate* determination. ▪ Officials at the hospital were *obdurate*. [=*adamant*] The patient could have no visitors.
– **ob·du·ra·cy** /ˈɑ:bdərəsi, *Brit* ˈɒbdjərəsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Her *obduracy* angered them. – **ob·du·rate·ly** *adv*

obe·di·ent /oʊˈbi:dijənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : willing to do what someone tells you to do or to follow a law, rule, etc. : willing to obey ▪ *obedient* to the law ▪ an *obedient* child/dog — opposite DISOBEDIENT
– **obe·di·ence** /oʊˈbi:dijəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ blind/unquestioning *obedience* ▪ Students are expected to act ***in obedience to*** the rules of the school. [=are expected to obey the rules of the school] ▪ He's been taking his dog to *obedience* classes/school/training. – **obe·di·ent·ly** *adv* ▪ The children stood *obediently* in line.

obei·sance /oʊˈbi:sns/ *noun, pl* **-sanc·es** *formal*
1 [*count*] : a movement of your body (such as bowing) that shows respect for someone or something ▪ making *obeisances* to the king [=bowing to the king]
2 [*noncount*] : respect for someone or something ▪ They ***paid obeisance*** to him. [=they showed or expressed great respect for him]

obe·lisk /ˈɑ:bəˌlɪsk/ *noun, pl* **-lisks** [*count*] : a tall, four-sided stone column that becomes narrower toward the top and that ends in a point


obelisk

obese /oʊˈbi:s/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very fat : fat in a way that is unhealthy ▪ providing medical treatment for *obese* patients
– **obe·si·ty** /oʊˈbi:səti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the problem of *obesity* in children

obey /oʊˈbeɪ/ *verb* **obeys**; **obeyed**; **obey·ing** : to do what someone tells you to do or what a rule, law, etc., says you must do [+ *obj*] His dog has learned to *obey* several commands. ▪ He always *obeys* his parents. ▪ *obey* the law ▪ The children must *obey* the rules. ▪ Falling objects *obey* the laws of physics. [=falling objects move in a way that agrees with the laws of physics] [*no obj*] The children must learn to *obey*. ▪ This dog does not *obey*. [=does not do what it is told to do] — opposite DISOBEY

ob·fus·cate /ˈɑ:bfəˌskeɪt/ *verb* **-cates**; **-cat·ed**; **-cat·ing** *formal* : to make (something) more difficult to understand [+ *obj*] Politicians keep *obfuscating* the issues. [*no obj*] Their explanations only serve to *obfuscate* and confuse.
– **ob·fus·ca·tion** /ˌɑ:bfəˈskeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

ob–gyn /ˌoʊˌbi:ˌʤi:ˌwaɪˈɛn/ *noun, pl* **ob–gyns** [*count*] *US, medical* : a doctor who deals with the birth of children and with diseases that affect the reproductive system of women ▪ She has an appointment with her *ob-gyn* tomorrow. ▪ an *ob-gyn* practice/specialist ✧ *Ob-gyn* comes from shortened forms of the words "obstetrician" and "gynecologist."

OB–GYN *abbr* obstetrics-gynecology

obit /oʊˈbɪt, *Brit* ˈɒbɪt/ *noun, pl* **obits** [*count*] *informal* : OBITUARY

obit·u·ary /oʊˈbɪʧəˌweri, *Brit* əˈbɪʧuəri/ *noun, pl* **-ar·ies** [*count*] : an article in a newspaper about the life of someone who has died recently ▪ I read/saw her *obituary* in the newspaper. ▪ an *obituary* writer/notice — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The company is not doing well, but it's too soon to write an/its *obituary*. [=too soon to think that the company will fail]

obj *abbr* object

[1]ob•ject /ˈɑːbʤɪkt/ *noun, pl* **-jects**

1 [*count*] : a thing that you can see and touch and that is not alive ▪ There were three *objects* in the box: a comb, a pen, and a button. ▪ an ***inanimate object*** [=a thing that is not alive, such as a rock, a chair, a book, etc.]

2 [*count*] **a** : someone or something that makes you feel a specified emotion — + *of* ▪ The book's lead character is both an *object of* desire and an *object of* pity. [=the lead character is both desired and pitied by other characters in the book] ▪ She is the *object of* his affection. **b** : someone or something that your attention or interest is directed toward — often + *of* ▪ The *object of* study in her research is the human brain. — see also SEX OBJECT

3 [*singular*] : the goal or aim of a plan or action : the reason or purpose for an activity ▪ His *object* is to determine how much the business will cost to operate. — usually + *of* ▪ The *object of* the game is to score the most points.

4 [*count*] *grammar* : a noun, noun phrase, or pronoun that receives the action of a verb or completes the meaning of a preposition — compare SUBJECT; see also DIRECT OBJECT, INDIRECT OBJECT

no object — used to say that something is not important or worth worrying about ▪ When they take a vacation, ***money is no object***. [=they don't worry about how much something costs] They always stay at the most expensive places. ▪ If *cost was/were no object* [=if cost did not matter; if we had enough money] we'd buy a new car instead of fixing the old one.

[2]ob•ject /əbˈʤɛkt/ *verb* **-jects; -ject•ed; -ject•ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to disagree with something or oppose something ▪ No one *objected* when the paintings were removed. ▪ (*law*) "Your honor, I *object*. That question is misleading." — often + *to* ▪ A number of people *objected to* the proposed changes. ▪ Many people *object to* [=do not like] the amount of violence on television.

2 [+ *obj*] : to say (something that explains why you oppose something or disagree) ▪ "We can't buy the chair," he *objected*. "It won't fit in the car." — often + *that* ▪ He *objected that* the chair was too big to fit in the car.

– ob•jec•tor /əbˈʤɛktɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] — see also CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR

ob•jec•ti•fy /əbˈʤɛktəˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies; -fied; -fy•ing** [+ *obj*] *disapproving* : to treat (someone) as an object rather than as a person ▪ She says beauty pageants *objectify* women.

– ob•jec•ti•fi•ca•tion /əbˌʤɛktəfəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *objectification* of women

ob•jec•tion /əbˈʤɛkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 : a reason for disagreeing with or opposing something : a reason for objecting [*count*] My main *objection* is that some people will have to pay more than others. — often + *to* ▪ His main *objection to* buying the car is that it's too expensive. ▪ People have raised/voiced a number of *objections to* the proposed changes. [*noncount*] She doesn't have any *objection to* going. = She's made no *objection to* going. ▪ He said he had no *objection to* the plan.

2 *law* **a** [*count*] : an act of formally objecting to something during a trial. ▪ The prosecutor's *objection* was sustained. [=the judge agreed that the prosecutor was right to object] **b** — used as an interjection by lawyers during trials when they think something is not fair or proper ▪ *Objection*! That question is misleading.

ob•jec•tion•able /əbˈʤɛkʃənəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not good or right ▪ Some people find the taste of the water *objectionable* [=*unpleasant*], but I think it's fine. : causing people to be offended ▪ He won't allow his children to watch television shows with *objectionable* [=*offensive*] language.

– ob•jec•tion•ably /əbˈʤɛkʃənəbli/ *adv* ▪ behaving *objectionably*

[1]ob•jec•tive /əbˈʤɛktɪv/ *adj*

1 [*more ~; most ~*] : based on facts rather than feelings or opinions ▪ We need someone outside the company to give us an *objective* analysis. ▪ Scientists must be *objective*. : not influenced by feelings ▪ It's hard to be *objective* [=*fair, unbiased*] about my own family. — opposite SUBJECTIVE

2 *philosophy* : existing outside of the mind : existing in the real world ▪ *objective* reality

3 *grammar* : relating to nouns, noun phrases, or pronouns that are the objects of verbs or prepositions ▪ The pronoun "her" is in the *objective* [=*accusative*] case in the sentence "I saw her." — compare SUBJECTIVE

– ob•jec•tive•ly *adv* ▪ Scientists must look at facts *objectively*. ▪ It's hard to think *objectively* about your own family.

– ob•jec•tiv•i•ty /ˌɑːbˌʤɛkˈtɪvəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The passionate tone of the article made me question the author's *objectivity*.

[2]objective *noun, pl* **-tives**

1 [*count*] : something you are trying to do or achieve : a goal or purpose ▪ The main/primary *objective* of the class is to teach basic typing skills. ▪ She's expanding the business with the *objective* of improving efficiency. ▪ We've set specific *objectives* for each day.

2 [*count*] : OBJECTIVE LENS

3 [*noncount*] *grammar* : ACCUSATIVE

objective lens *noun, pl* **~ lenses** [*count*] *technical* : a lens or system of lenses in a microscope, telescope, etc., that forms an image of an object — called also *objective*

object lesson *noun, pl* **~ -sons** [*count*] : an example from real life that teaches a lesson or explains something ▪ His life story is an *object lesson* in how not to run a business.

ob•jet d'art /ˌɑːbˌʒeɪˈdɑɚ/ *noun, pl* **ob•jets d'art** /ˌɑːbˌʒeɪˈdɑɚ/ [*count*] : a small object that is valued because it is beautiful or interesting : an object that has artistic value ▪ The house is decorated with *objets d'art* from around the world. — called also *objet*

ob•li•gate /ˈɑːbləˌgeɪt/ *verb* **-gates; -gat•ed; -gat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (a person or organization) do something because the law requires it or because it is the right thing to do ▪ The contract *obligates* the firm to complete the work in six weeks. — usually used as *(be) obligated* ▪ You *are* legally *obligated* to repay the loan. = You *are obligated* by law to repay the loan. ▪ I feel *obligated* to return his call.

ob•li•ga•tion /ˌɑːbləˈgeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 : something that you must do because of a law, rule, promise, etc. [*count*] The firm must fulfill its *obligations* under the contract. = The firm must fulfill its contractual *obligations*. ▪ legal/financial/constitutional *obligations* ▪ Both landlord and tenant should know their rights and *obligations*. [=*responsibilities*] [*noncount*] You can try the machine for free ***without obligation***. [=without being required to buy it or to do anything else] ▪ You are ***not under any obligation*** to stay. [=you are not required to stay] ▪ You're ***under no*** (legal) ***obligation*** to return the money. [=there is no law that requires you to return the money; you do not have to return the money]

2 : something that you must do because it is morally right [*count*] family/social *obligations* ▪ She believes that all people have a moral *obligation* to defend human rights. ▪ He argues that people in a community have certain *obligations* to each other. ▪ She failed to fulfill her *obligations* as a parent. [*noncount*] We visited them out of a ***sense of obligation***. [=a feeling that it was the right thing to do]

oblig•a•to•ry /əˈblɪgəˌtori, *Brit* əˈblɪgətri/ *adj*

1 *formal* : required by a law or rule ▪ *obligatory* [=*mandatory*] military service ▪ The training is *obligatory* for all personnel.

2 *always used before a noun, humorous* : always or often included as a familiar and expected part of something ▪ This action movie includes the *obligatory* chase scenes.

oblige /əˈblaɪʤ/ *verb* **obli•ges; obliged; oblig•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to force or require (someone or something) to do something because of a law or rule or because it is necessary ▪ The law *obliges* the government to release certain documents to the public. ▪ Her job *obliges* her to work overtime and on weekends. — usually used as *(be) obliged* ▪ The government *is obliged* [=*required, obligated*] by law to release certain documents to the public.

2 : to do something that someone has asked you to do : to do a favor for (someone) [+ *obj*] She's always ready to *oblige* her friends. [*no obj*] "Thank you for your help." "I'm happy/glad to *oblige*." ▪ They asked for food and he *obliged* with soup and sandwiches.

– see also NOBLESSE OBLIGE

obliged *adj, not used before a noun, old-fashioned* : very grateful : THANKFUL ▪ I'd be much *obliged* if you'd hold the door for me. ▪ We felt *obliged* [=*indebted*] to them for all their help. ▪ You've been so helpful. We are much *obliged*. [=we are very grateful; we thank you very much]

obliging *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : willing to help : helpful in a friendly way ▪ An *obliging* passerby helped her with her packages.

– oblig•ing•ly *adv* ▪ A passerby *obligingly* helped her with her packages.

[1]oblique /oʊˈbliːk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : not direct : not stated directly ▪ She made only *oblique*

[=*indirect*] references to the scandal in her speech.

2 *of a line* : having a slanting direction or position : neither perpendicular nor parallel ▪ The short lines of the letter "k" are *oblique* lines.

– **oblique•ly** *adv* ▪ She referred to the scandal *obliquely* in her speech. – **oblique•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The poem's *obliqueness* is what interests me.

[2]oblique *noun, pl* **obliques** [*count*] *Brit* : [2]SLASH 4

oblique angle *noun, pl* ~ **angles** [*count*] *mathematics* : an angle that is not 90 degrees : an acute or obtuse angle ▪ The dancer held his leg at an *oblique* angle to his body.

oblit•er•ate /ə'blɪtəˌreɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [+ *obj*] : to destroy (something) completely so that nothing is left ▪ The tide eventually *obliterated* [=*wiped out*] all evidence of our sand castles. — often used as *(be) obliterated* ▪ The garden *was obliterated* in the hurricane.

– **oblit•er•a•tion** /əˌblɪtə'reɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

obliv•i•on /ə'blɪvijən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the state of something that is not remembered, used, or thought about any more ▪ The technology is destined/headed for *oblivion*. ▪ The names of the people who lived here long ago have faded/drifted into *oblivion*. ▪ His theories have faded into scientific *oblivion*. ▪ Her work was rescued from *oblivion* when it was rediscovered in the early 1900s.

2 : the state of being unconscious or unaware : the state of not knowing what is going on around you ▪ After being awake for three days straight, he longed for the *oblivion* of sleep. ▪ She drank herself into *oblivion*.

3 : the state of being destroyed ▪ The little village was bulldozed into *oblivion* to make way for the airport.

obliv•i•ous /ə'blɪvijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not conscious or aware of someone or something ▪ We called out to them, but they remained *oblivious*. [=they did not notice us] — usually + *of* or *to* ▪ He was completely *oblivious of* [=*unaware of*] the fact that he'd offended them. ▪ She kept dancing, *oblivious to* everyone around her.

– **obliv•i•ous•ly** *adv* – **obliv•i•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

ob•long /'ɑːˌblɑːŋ/ *adj*

1 *US* : longer in one direction than in the other direction ▪ an *oblong* [=*oval*] loop ▪ the plant's *oblong* leaves

2 *chiefly Brit* : having four straight sides that meet at right angles and having two opposite sides that are short and two opposite sides that are long ▪ an *oblong* [=*rectangular*] block of wood

– **oblong** *noun, pl* **-longs** [*count*] ▪ Draw an *oblong*.

ob•lo•quy /'ɑːbləkwi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal*

1 : harsh or critical statements about someone ▪ a victim of hatred and *obloquy*

2 : the condition of someone who lost the respect of other people ▪ For years they endured the *obloquy* [=*shame*] that follows scandal.

ob•nox•ious /ɑb'nɑːkʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : unpleasant in a way that makes people feel offended, annoyed, or disgusted ▪ He said some really *obnoxious* things about his ex-girlfriend at the party. ▪ Some teenagers were being loud and *obnoxious*. ▪ an *obnoxious* smell

– **ob•nox•ious•ly** *adv* ▪ *obnoxiously* loud music – **ob•nox•ious•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

oboe /'oʊboʊ/ *noun, pl* **oboes** [*count*] : a musical instrument that is shaped like a tube and that is played by blowing into a small, thin piece at the top of the tube — see picture at WOODWIND

– **obo•ist** /'oʊbowɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ He's an *oboist* in the city's orchestra.

ob•scene /ɑb'siːn/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 a : relating to sex in an indecent or offensive way ▪ The book is filled with *obscene* [=(*informal*) *dirty*] pictures. ▪ He was accused of making *obscene* phone calls. **b** : very offensive in usually a shocking way ▪ *obscene* lyrics/language ▪ He made an *obscene* gesture at the driver who cut him off.

2 : so large an amount or size as to be very shocking or unfair ▪ The company's executives earn *obscene* salaries. ▪ He spends an *obscene* amount of money on clothes.

3 : morally disturbing or upsetting ▪ What an *obscene* [=*disgusting*] waste of money!

– **ob•scene•ly** *adv* ▪ *obscenely* wealthy/rich

ob•scen•i•ty /ɑb'sɛnəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being obscene ▪ He was arrested for *obscenity*. = He was arrested on *obscenity* charges.

2 [*noncount*] : obscene words or actions ▪ The author uses *obscenity* to make a point about the culture.

3 [*count*] : an offensive word : SWEARWORD — usually plural ▪ People were shouting/screaming/yelling *obscenities* at one another. ▪ The song's lyrics are full of *obscenities*.

ob•scu•ran•tism /ɑbˈskjɚrənˌtɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the practice of keeping knowledge or understanding about something from people : the policy of not letting people know something ▪ secrecy and political *obscurantism*

– **ob•scu•rant•ist** /ɑbˈskjɚrəntɪst/ *adj* ▪ *obscurantist* art

[1]ob•scure /ɑb'skjɚ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : not well-known : not known to most people ▪ *obscure* books/titles ▪ a little antique shop in an *obscure* [=*out-of-the-way*] corner of the city

2 a : difficult to understand : likely to be understood by only a few people ▪ The movie is full of *obscure* references that only pop culture enthusiasts will understand. **b** : difficult or impossible to know completely and with certainty ▪ The origins of the language are *obscure*.

– **ob•scure•ly** *adv* ▪ an *obscurely* titled book

synonyms OBSCURE, VAGUE, and AMBIGUOUS mean not clearly understandable. OBSCURE often suggests a meaning that cannot be easily understood because it has not been clearly expressed or because special knowledge is needed. ▪ an *obscure* poem VAGUE suggests something that cannot be described clearly. ▪ She felt a *vague* sense of obligation. It can also describe something that is difficult to understand because it is not specific. ▪ *vague* instructions AMBIGUOUS describes language that can be understood in more than one way. ▪ an *ambiguous* statement

[2]obscure *verb* **-scures**; **-scured**; **-scur•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (something) difficult to understand or know : to make (something) obscure ▪ The true history has been *obscured* by legends about what happened. ▪ They accused the company of trying to *obscure* the fact that the product poses a health risk.

2 : to hide or cover (something) : to be in front of (something) so that it cannot be seen ▪ Low clouds *obscured* the mountains. = The mountains were *obscured* by low clouds. ▪ Her view of the game was *obscured* [=*blocked*] by a post.

ob•scu•ri•ty /ɑb'skjɚrəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*noncount*] : the state of being unknown or forgotten ▪ In recent years, the tradition has emerged from *obscurity*. ▪ He has been living in relative *obscurity* in a small town in the mountains. ▪ After a promising first novel, she faded/sank into *obscurity*.

2 a [*count*] : something that is difficult to understand — usually plural ▪ The essay is full of *obscurities*. **b** [*noncount*] : the quality of being difficult to understand ▪ A good writer avoids *obscurity* of language. [=does not use words people are not likely to understand]

ob•se•quies /'ɑːbsəkwiz/ *noun* [*plural*] *formal* : the acts that make up a funeral ceremony ▪ solemn *obsequies*

ob•se•qui•ous /əb'siːkwijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving* : too eager to help or obey someone important ▪ She's constantly followed by *obsequious* assistants who will do anything she tells them to.

– **ob•se•qui•ous•ly** *adv* ▪ smiling *obsequiously* [=smiling in a way that shows that you are obsequious] – **ob•se•qui•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

ob•serv•able /əb'zɚvəbəl/ *adj* : possible to see or notice : able to be observed ▪ The trend is *observable* [=*noticeable, perceptible*] all over the country. ▪ the size of the *observable* universe

– **ob•serv•ably** /əb'zɚvəbli/ *adv* ▪ *observably* different

ob•ser•vance /əb'zɚvəns/ *noun, pl* **-vanc•es**

1 [*noncount*] : the practice of following a custom, rule, law, etc. ▪ Sabbath *observance* — often + *of* ▪ strict *observance of* the law/ban/rule ▪ The office will be closed in *observance of* the holiday.

2 [*count*] : an act that is part of a ceremony or ritual ▪ a special holiday *observance* — usually plural ▪ religious/ritual *observances*

ob•ser•vant /əb'zɚvənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : good at watching and listening : good at noticing what is going on around you ▪ A particularly *observant* child, he noticed even the slightest changes in the classroom. ▪ Good reporters are keenly *observant* of everything around them.

2 : careful to follow religious teachings or customs ▪ an *observant* Jew/Muslim = a Jew/Muslim who is *observant* of Jewish/Islamic law ▪ The family is strictly *observant*.

[1]ob•ser•va•tion /ˌɑːbsɚ'veɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] : a statement about something you have noticed : a

comment or remark ▪ I'm not criticizing that kind of clothing. I'm just making an *observation* about the style. ▪ Her constant *observations* about the weather bored me. ***synonyms*** see [1]REMARK

2 a [*noncount*] : the act of careful watching and listening : the activity of paying close attention to someone or something in order to get information ▪ These facts are based on close *observation* of the birds in the wild. ▪ Children learn by *observation*. ▪ The author's excellent ***powers of observation*** [=ability to notice and pay close attention to things] are evident in the book's detailed descriptions. ▪ The plants seem to have recovered from the disease, but they are still ***under observation*** [=someone is watching them carefully] ▪ He has been *under* government *observation* [=the government has been watching him carefully] for six months. ▪ They're keeping him at the hospital ***for observation*** [=so that doctors can watch him carefully] for another few days. **b** [*count*] : something you notice by watching and listening ▪ *Observations* made using the telescope have led to new theories. ▪ Some interesting *observations* came from the study. ▪ scientific *observations* **c** [*count*] : a written or spoken report or description of something that you have noticed or studied ▪ He recorded his *observations* in a notebook.

3 [*noncount*] : the act of doing what is required by a custom, rule, law, etc. : OBSERVANCE — usually + *of* ▪ *observation of* the law

– **ob·ser·va·tion·al** /ˌɑːbsəˈveɪʃənl/ *adj* ▪ *observational* data/skills

[2]observation *adj, always used before a noun* : designed to be used while watching people or things ▪ *observation* airplanes/helicopters ▪ an *observation* deck/platform/post/tower

ob·ser·va·to·ry /əbˈzɚvəˌtori, *Brit* əbˈzəːvətri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] : a special building for studying stars, planets, weather, etc. : a building from which scientists study and watch the sky ▪ the McDonald *Observatory*

ob·serve /əbˈzɚv/ *verb* **-serves**; **-served**; **-serv·ing**

1 : to watch and sometimes also listen to (someone or something) carefully [+ *obj*] The class will be *observing* the movements of fish. ▪ The patient must be *observed* constantly. ▪ Children learn by *observing* their parents and others. ▪ The story is a ***closely/well observed*** [=very realistic] portrait of the city. [*no obj*] The new teacher will give the lesson today and the principal will *observe*.

2 [+ *obj*] : to see and notice (someone or something) ▪ We *observed* a large flock of birds heading north. ▪ He *observed* two children playing with marbles on the street corner. ▪ She *observed* that every man in the room had removed his hat. ▪ Few cases of the disease have been *observed* in humans.

3 [+ *obj*] : to make a comment about something you notice ▪ "The paint," she *observed* [=*remarked, said*], "is already starting to peel." ▪ Looking around at the shuttered houses, he *observed* [=*commented*] that the island was entirely different in the winter.

4 [+ *obj*] : to do what a custom, rule, law, etc., says you should do ▪ The game will continue only when both teams agree to *observe* [=*follow*] the rules. ▪ *observing* [=*keeping*] the Sabbath

5 [+ *obj*] : to celebrate (a holiday) or honor (a person or event) ▪ We'll *observe* Independence Day at home this year. ▪ They *observed* a moment of silence to remember their loved ones.

ob·serv·er /əbˈzɚvɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a person who sees and notices someone or something ▪ According to one *observer*, the event was poorly organized. ▪ The star is not visible to an *observer* without a telescope. ▪ Even a ***casual observer*** [=even someone who is not looking carefully] can tell that the building is in need of repair.

2 : a person who pays close attention to something and is considered to be an expert on that thing ▪ According to one military *observer*, this change comes after years of planning. ▪ *Observers* say the economy is improving.

3 : a person who is present at something (such as a meeting) in order to watch and listen to what happens ▪ The class has an *observer* today, so please be on your best behavior.

4 — used in the names of newspapers and magazines ▪ the Raleigh News and *Observer* ▪ the London *Observer*

ob·sess /əbˈsɛs/ *verb* **-sess·es**; **-sessed**; **-sess·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to be the only person or thing that someone thinks or talks about ▪ The war *obsesses* him—he talks about nothing else. — usually used as *(be) obsessed* ▪ He *is obsessed* by the war. ▪ She *was obsessed* with her weight. [=she thought about her weight all the time] ▪ She became more and more *obsessed* with the project.

2 [*no obj*] *informal* : to think and talk about someone or something too much ▪ You need to stop *obsessing* and just deal with the problem. — usually + *about* or *over* ▪ I'm trying to *obsess* less *about* my weight. ▪ He's always *obsessing over* money.

ob·ses·sion /əbˈsɛʃən/ *noun, pl* **-sions**

1 : a state in which someone thinks about someone or something constantly or frequently especially in a way that is not normal [*count*] He was fascinated by the actress and tracking her every move had become an *obsession*. ▪ She has an *obsession* about cleanliness. ▪ the object of her *obsession* [=the thing that she is obsessed about] ▪ The restaurant's menu is evidence of the chef's lifelong *obsession* with international cuisines. [=the chef's lifelong interest in international cuisines] [*noncount*] Her concern about cleanliness approaches the level of *obsession*. ▪ He's concerned about money to the ***point of obsession*** [=he is very/too concerned about money]

2 [*count*] **a** : someone or something that a person thinks about constantly or frequently ▪ Cleanliness is her *obsession*. = Cleanliness is an *obsession* with her. ▪ Money has become an *obsession* for him. **b** : an activity that someone is very interested in or spends a lot of time doing ▪ Stamp collecting has become an *obsession* with/for me. [=I have become obsessed with collecting stamps]

– **ob·ses·sion·al** /əbˈsɛʃənl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *obsessional* [=(more commonly) *obsessive*] thinking

[1]ob·ses·sive /əbˈsɛsɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : thinking about something or someone too much or in a way that is not normal : having an obsession ▪ Many dancers are *obsessive* about their weight. ▪ He is an *obsessive* workaholic who never stops thinking about his job. : showing or relating to an obsession ▪ an *obsessive* interest in space travel ▪ The new therapy is supposed to help people control their *obsessive* thoughts. ▪ *obsessive* attention to detail

– **ob·ses·sive·ly** *adv* ▪ She works *obsessively*, often for weeks at a time. ▪ talking *obsessively* about food – **ob·sessive·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[2]obsessive *noun, pl* **-sives** [*count*] *psychology* : a person who thinks about something too much or in a way that is not normal : someone who is obsessed

obsessive–compulsive *adj, psychology* : relating to or having a mental illness that involves repeating actions or thinking about certain things too much ▪ *obsessive-compulsive* behavior ▪ a patient with *obsessive-compulsive* disorder ▪ an *obsessive-compulsive* person/patient = a person/patient who is *obsessive-compulsive*

– **obsessive–compulsive** *noun, pl* **-sives** [*count*] ▪ treatment for *obsessive-compulsives* [=people who have obsessive-compulsive disorder]

ob·sid·i·an /əbˈsɪdijən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a dark natural glass that forms when lava cools

ob·so·les·cence /ˌɑːbsəˈlɛsn̩s/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the condition of no longer being used or useful : the condition of being obsolete ▪ the *obsolescence* of the old technology ▪ Once a useful tool, slide rules have fallen into *obsolescence*. ▪ ***built-in/planned obsolescence*** [=the practice of making or designing something (such as a car) in such a way that it will only be usable for a short time so that people will have to buy another one]

ob·so·les·cent /ˌɑːbsəˈlɛsn̩t/ *adj* : no longer useful : becoming obsolete ▪ *obsolescent* machinery/computers

ob·so·lete /ˌɑːbsəˈliːt/ *adj*

1 : no longer used because something newer exists ▪ *obsolete* [=*outdated*] computers ▪ The system was made/rendered *obsolete* by their invention. : replaced by something newer ▪ *obsolete* mills and factories

2 : no longer used by anyone ▪ an *obsolete* word

ob·sta·cle /ˈɑːbstɪkəl/ *noun, pl* **-sta·cles** [*count*]

1 : something that makes it difficult to do something ▪ He overcame the *obstacles* of poverty and neglect. ▪ They must overcome a number of *obstacles* before the restaurant can be opened. ▪ Lack of experience is a major *obstacle* for her opponent. ▪ an *obstacle* to learning/progress

2 : an object that you have to go around or over : something that blocks your path ▪ She swerved to avoid an *obstacle* in the road.

obstacle course *noun, pl* ~ **courses** [*count*]

1 : a series of objects that people or animals in a race have to jump or climb over, go around, go under, etc.

2 : a training area for soldiers that is filled with objects (such as hurdles, ditches, walls, etc.) that the soldiers have to jump or climb over, go around, go under, etc. — called also (*Brit*) *assault course*

3 : a series of problems, events, or requirements that make it difficult to do something ▪ We finally made it through the bureaucratic *obstacle course* and got our visas.

obstacle race *noun, pl* ~ **races** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a race through an obstacle course

ob•ste•tri•cian /ˌɑːbstəˈtrɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-cians** [*count*] *medical* : a doctor who specializes in obstetrics — compare OB-GYN

ob•stet•rics /əbˈstɛtrɪks/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a branch of medicine that deals with the birth of children and with the care of women before, during, and after they give birth to children — compare GYNECOLOGY

– **ob•stet•ric** /əbˈstɛtrɪk/ *or US* **ob•stet•ri•cal** /əbˈstɛtrɪkəl/ *adj* ▪ *obstetric* patients/treatment ▪ *obstetrical* care

ob•sti•nate /ˈɑːbstənət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : refusing to change your behavior or your ideas : STUBBORN ▪ his *obstinate* refusal to obey ▪ an *obstinate* little boy ▪ her *obstinate* behavior ▪ My parents remain as *obstinate* as ever.

2 : difficult to deal with, remove, etc. : STUBBORN ▪ an *obstinate* stain ▪ a very *obstinate* problem

– **ob•sti•na•cy** /ˈɑːbstənəsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **ob•sti•nate•ly** *adv* ▪ people who cling *obstinately* to the past ▪ He *obstinately* refused to obey.

ob•strep•er•ous /əbˈstrɛpərəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : difficult to control and often noisy ▪ a room full of *obstreperous* children ▪ *obstreperous* [=*unruly*] teenagers

ob•struct /əbˈstrʌkt/ *verb* **-structs**; **-struct•ed**; **-struct•ing** [+ *obj*] *somewhat formal*

1 : to block (something, such as a pipe or street) so that things cannot move through easily ▪ A large tree *obstructed* the road. ▪ A piece of food *obstructed* his airway and caused him to stop breathing.

2 : to slow or block the movement, progress, or action of (something or someone) ▪ Several issues have *obstructed* [=*hindered*, *impeded*] efforts to bring peace to the region. ▪ She was charged with *obstructing* police/investigators. ▪ She was charged with ***obstructing justice*** by lying to investigators.

3 : to be in front of (something) : to make (something) difficult to see ▪ His neighbors built a wall that *obstructed* [=*blocked*] his view of the ocean.

ob•struc•tion /əbˈstrʌkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] : something that blocks something else and makes it difficult for things to move through ▪ They are removing trees and other *obstructions* from the path. ▪ There were *obstructions* [=*blockages*] in his blood vessels.

2 : the condition of being blocked so that things cannot move through easily [*noncount*] cases of intestinal *obstruction* in children [*count*] She died from an *obstruction* of the airway.

3 [*noncount*] : the act of making it difficult for something to happen or move forward ▪ He is on trial for the *obstruction* of a criminal investigation. ✧ ***Obstruction of justice*** is the crime of trying to stop police from learning the truth about something. ▪ He is being charged with *obstruction of justice* for lying to investigators.

ob•struc•tion•ism /əbˈstrʌkʃəˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : things that are done to stop or delay the progress of a legal or political process ▪ They accused the other political party of *obstructionism*.

– **ob•struc•tion•ist** /əbˈstrʌkʃənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ stubborn *obstructionists* – **obstructionist** *adj* ▪ *obstructionist* practices

ob•struc•tive /əbˈstrʌktɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : trying to cause problems in order to stop or delay something ▪ *obstructive* public officials ▪ deliberately *obstructive* tactics

ob•tain /əbˈteɪn/ *verb* **-tains**; **-tained**; **-tain•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] *somewhat formal* : to gain or get (something) usually by effort ▪ The information may be difficult to *obtain*. ▪ We *obtained* a copy of the original letter. ▪ They've *obtained* [=*acquired*] the necessary permission to enter.

2 *not used in progressive tenses* [*no obj*] *formal* : to continue to be accepted or in use ▪ These ideas no longer *obtain* for our generation.

– **ob•tain•able** /əbˈteɪnəbəl/ *adj, formal* ▪ The drug is legally *obtainable* in this country.

ob•trude /əbˈtruːd/ *verb* **-trudes**; **-trud•ed**; **-trud•ing** *formal* : to become involved with something or to become noticeable in an unpleasant or annoying way [*no obj*] She didn't want to *obtrude* [=*intrude*] on/upon their conversation. ▪ The historical details in the movie do not *obtrude*—they enhance the story by making it more realistic. [+ *obj*] He was confident at first, but then doubts began to *obtrude* themselves. [=he began to have doubts]

ob•tru•sive /əbˈtruːsɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : tending to bother people by appearing where you are not welcome or invited ▪ The waiter was attentive without being *obtrusive*.

2 : noticeable in an unpleasant or annoying way ▪ We used less *obtrusive* colors in the bedrooms. ▪ *obtrusive* advertising

– **ob•tru•sive•ly** *adv* ▪ an *obtrusively* large building

ob•tuse /ɑbˈtuːs, *Brit* ɒbˈtjuːs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 *formal* : stupid or unintelligent : not able to think clearly or to understand what is obvious or simple ▪ He is too *obtuse* to take a hint. ▪ an incredibly *obtuse* person

2 *mathematics* : not ending in a sharp point : measuring between 90 degrees and 180 degrees ▪ an *obtuse* angle — compare ACUTE 6

– **ob•tuse•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ We laughed at her *obtuseness*.

ob•verse /ɑbˈvəs/ *noun* [*singular*] *formal* : something that is the opposite of something else : OPPOSITE ▪ joy and its *obverse*, sadness ▪ We thought they would be pleased with our decision. We have learned, however, that the *obverse* is true.

ob•vi•ate /ˈɑːbviˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to make (something) no longer necessary ▪ The new medical treatment *obviates* the need for surgery. : to prevent or avoid (something) ▪ The new treatment *obviates* many of the risks associated with surgery.

ob•vi•ous /ˈɑːbvijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : easy to see or notice ▪ Her doctor immediately noticed the *obvious* signs of the disease. ▪ She saw only the most *obvious* differences.

2 : easy for the mind to understand or recognize ▪ It was *obvious* that things weren't working out. ▪ Her reasons for leaving were *obvious*. = It's *obvious* why she left. ▪ The answer seems *obvious* enough to me. ▪ The problem was immediately *obvious* to everyone in the room. ▪ He was the *obvious* candidate/choice for president. ▪ The *obvious* question is: how did he become so successful? ▪ For *obvious* reasons, I would not like to reveal my name.

the obvious : something that is obvious ▪ You are stating *the obvious*. Tell me something I don't already know. ▪ Try to look beyond *the obvious*.

– **ob•vi•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *obviousness* of his answer

ob•vious•ly /ˈɑːbvijəsli/ *adv*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : in a way that is easy to see, understand, or recognize ▪ She *obviously* enjoys her work. ▪ Their answer was *obviously* wrong. ▪ That's *obviously* not her real name.

2 — used to emphasize that you are talking about something that is easy to see, understand, or recognize ▪ *Obviously*, something is wrong. ▪ *Obviously*, that's not her real name.

[1]oc•ca•sion /əˈkeɪʒən/ *noun, pl* **-sions**

1 [*count*] : a special event or time ▪ birthdays, anniversaries, and other special *occasions* ▪ They marked/celebrated the *occasion* with their families. ▪ She wrote a song especially for the *occasion*. ▪ Roses are the perfect flower for any *occasion*. ▪ formal *occasions* ▪ a memorable/historic *occasion* ▪ ***On the occasion of*** their 25th wedding anniversary, they took a vacation to Paris.

2 [*count*] *somewhat formal* : a particular time when something happens ▪ This would mark the first *occasion* [=*time*] that the club accepted new members.— often used after *on* ▪ We usually meet at noon, but *on* this particular *occasion*, we met at two o'clock. ▪ I heard him speak *on* more than one *occasion*. = I heard him speak *on* several *occasions*.

3 *somewhat formal* : a chance or opportunity : a situation that allows something to happen — usually followed by *to* + *verb* [*noncount*] We had *occasion to watch* her perform last summer. ▪ The boys never had *occasion to meet* each other. [*singular*] She never found an *occasion to suggest* her ideas. ▪ He took/used the *occasion to make* an announcement.

4 [*singular*] *somewhat formal* : a reason to do something — often + *for* ▪ The team's win was an *occasion for* celebration.

on occasion : sometimes but not often : from time to time ▪ *On occasion* [=*occasionally*], we'll drive out to the beach and watch the sunset. ▪ I have *on occasion* tried to help him

with his homework. ▪ These machines are still used *on occasion* today.

rise to the occasion see [1]RISE

[2]occasion *verb* **-sions; -sioned; -sion•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to cause (something) ▪ The program has *occasioned* [=*brought about*] much discussion about violence on television. — often used as *(be) occasioned* ▪ Her trip back home *was occasioned* by her mother's recent death.

oc•ca•sion•al /ə'keɪʒənl/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : happening or done sometimes but not often : not happening or done in a regular or frequent way ▪ She receives *occasional* phone calls from her mother. ▪ There will be *occasional* showers during the morning. ▪ She makes *occasional* appearances on television. = She appears on the *occasional* television show. ▪ Most mornings, we'll see deer or the *occasional* bear walking past our house. ▪ He tells an *occasional* joke to keep his students interested. ▪ I need to take *occasional* breaks from work. ▪ Sure, I drink an *occasional* glass of wine from time to time.

2 : sometimes doing a particular job or activity ▪ She's an *occasional* lecturer at the university. ▪ an *occasional* actor ▪ *occasional* smokers [=people who smoke occasionally]

oc•ca•sion•al•ly /ə'keɪʒənəli/ *adv* : sometimes but not often ▪ *Occasionally*, we see deer in the field. = We *occasionally* see deer in the field. ▪ *Occasionally*, things don't go as planned. ▪ Cook on medium heat, stirring *occasionally*, for about 10 minutes. ▪ ***Very occasionally*** [=*rarely*], she will have a glass of wine.

Oc•ci•dent /'ɑ:ksədənt/ *noun*

the Occident *formal + literary* : the western areas of the world; *especially* : Europe and America ▪ The crew set sail for *the Occident*. — compare ORIENT

occult /ə'kʌlt/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to supernatural powers or practices ▪ *occult* practices such as magic and fortune-telling ▪ the *occult* sciences/arts ▪ He began to believe he had *occult* powers.

the occult : supernatural powers or practices and the things (such as gods, ghosts, and magic) that are connected with them ▪ He's a student of *the occult*. ▪ religion, mythology, and *the occult*

oc•cult•ism /ə'kʌl,tɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the belief in or study of supernatural powers
– **oc•cult•ist** /ə'kʌltɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*]

oc•cu•pan•cy /'ɑ:kjəpənsi/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the act of living or staying in a particular place ▪ This building is unsafe for human *occupancy*. [=people cannot live here]

2 : the number of people who are in a particular building or room at one time ▪ The sign above the auditorium door says, "Maximum *occupancy*: 500 persons." ▪ hotel rates for ***double occupancy*** [=two people staying in a room]

oc•cu•pant /'ɑ:kjəpənt/ *noun, pl* **-pants** [*count*]

1 : a person who is using or living in a particular building, apartment, or room ▪ The apartment's previous *occupant* was a painter. ▪ the building's *occupants*

2 : a person who is in a room, vehicle, etc., at a particular time ▪ Both of the car's *occupants* were injured.

oc•cu•pa•tion /,ɑ:kjə'peɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] : the work that a person does : a person's job or profession ▪ He is thinking about changing *occupations* and becoming a police officer. ▪ "What's your *occupation*?" "I'm a stay-at-home mom." ▪ She listed her *occupation* as "writer" on the form. [=she wrote "writer" on the part of the form that asked what she did for work]

2 [*count*] : an activity that a person spends time doing ▪ His favorite *occupation* [=*pastime*] is playing chess. ▪ Swimming was their main *occupation* at summer camp.

3 [*noncount*] : the activity of living in or using a particular place ▪ Some evidence of human *occupation* was found in these caves. ▪ The offices are ready for *occupation*.

4 [*noncount*] : a situation in which the military of a foreign government goes into an area or country and takes control of it ▪ *occupation* of a foreign country ▪ people living under *occupation* ▪ The novel tells about life during the *occupation*.

oc•cu•pa•tion•al /,ɑ:kjə'peɪʃənl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to a person's job or occupation ▪ The program offered free *occupational* training to the poor. ▪ *occupational* safety and health ▪ Hand injuries are an ***occupational hazard*** for typists. [=typists are likely to have hand injuries because of the work they do]
– **oc•cu•pa•tion•al•ly** *adv* ▪ He was *occupationally* exposed to radiation.

occupational therapy *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : treatment that helps people who have physical or mental problems learn to do the activities of daily life
– **occupational therapist** *noun, pl* ~ **-pists** [*count*]

occupied *adj*

1 *not used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *somewhat formal* : busy doing something ▪ The governor is *occupied* at the moment. May I take a message? ▪ She keeps herself *occupied* with volunteer work.

2 *somewhat formal* : being used by someone ▪ This chair is *occupied* [=(less formally) *taken*], but I believe those chairs are free/available. ▪ His free time is *occupied* with his wife and children.

3 : controlled by foreign soldiers or a foreign government ▪ We live in an *occupied* country. = Our country is *occupied* by a foreign government. ▪ an *occupied* territory

oc•cu•pi•er /'ɑ:kjə,pajɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a soldier in an army that has taken control of a foreign place — usually plural ▪ The foreign *occupiers* were beginning to lose control of the area.

2 *Brit* : a person who is using or living in a particular building, apartment, room, etc. : OCCUPANT ▪ the current *occupiers* of the flat

oc•cu•py /'ɑ:kjə,paɪ/ *verb* **-pies; -pied; -py•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *somewhat formal* : to live in (a house, apartment, etc.) ▪ They have *occupied* the apartment for three years. ▪ She *occupies* the house that her grandfather built 50 years ago. ▪ They own another house that they *occupy* only three months out of the year. ▪ They *occupy* the room next to ours.

2 a : to fill or be in (a place or space) ▪ Someone was *occupying* [=sitting in] my place at the table. ▪ This region was once almost completely *occupied* by forests. ▪ Their house *occupies* a beautiful spot next to the ocean. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ That family trip *occupies* [=*has*] a special place in my memory. **b** : to fill or use (an amount of time) ▪ Studying *occupies* nearly all of my time on the weekends. [=I spend nearly all of my time studying] ▪ Much of our time is *occupied* by answering questions from our customers.

3 : to make (someone, someone's mind, etc.) busy ▪ During the long train ride, they *occupied* [=*busied*] themselves with card games. ▪ These questions have continued to *occupy* her mind. ▪ Reading *occupied* me for most of the summer. = I *occupied* myself with reading for most of the summer.

4 : to take and keep control of (a town, foreign country, etc.) by using military power ▪ Enemy troops *occupied* the town. ▪ The army is *occupying* half of the country.

5 *somewhat formal* : to have (a job or position) ▪ She now *occupies* the highest position in the country's government. ▪ *occupying* a position of power

oc•cur /ə'kɚ/ *verb* **-curs; -curred; -cur•ring** [*no obj*]

1 *somewhat formal* : to happen ▪ The event is scheduled to *occur* at noon tomorrow. ▪ No one was ready for what was about to *occur*. ▪ There's a chance that a similar event will *occur* in the future. ▪ The disease tends to *occur* in children under the age of five.

2 *formal* : to appear or exist : to be found ▪ The plant *occurs* naturally throughout South America. ▪ a naturally *occurring* compound/chemical/substance

occur to [*phrasal verb*] ***occur to (someone)*** : to be thought of by (someone) ▪ An idea just *occurred to* me. [=I just had an idea] ▪ It suddenly *occurred to* me that there was a simpler way to deal with the problem. ▪ Did it ever *occur to* you [=did you ever think] that maybe you were wrong? ▪ It never *occurred to* me to ask. [=I never thought of asking]

oc•cur•rence /ə'kɚrəns/ *noun, pl* **-renc•es**

1 [*count*] : something that happens ▪ Getting headaches has become a common/frequent/everyday *occurrence* for her. ▪ a rare/unusual *occurrence* ▪ the recent *occurrences* of the disease ▪ Lightning is a natural *occurrence*.

2 [*noncount*] : the fact of happening or occurring — usually + *of* ▪ We were trying to prevent the *occurrence of* further problems. [=trying to prevent further problems from occurring] ▪ The *occurrence of* theft in the locker room has stopped. ▪ The *occurrence of* the disease is low. [=the disease does not occur commonly]

OCD *abbr* obsessive-compulsive disorder

ocean /'oʊʃən/ *noun, pl* **oceans**

1 [*noncount*] : the salt water that covers much of the Earth's surface ▪ We've sailed across hundreds of miles of *ocean*. — often used with *the* ▪ They lived near *the ocean*. [=*the sea*] ▪ He had never seen *the ocean* before. ▪ There's a storm moving in from *the ocean*. ▪ The ship quickly sank to the bottom

of *the ocean*. ▪ the deepest parts of *the ocean* — often used before another noun ▪ the *ocean* floor/bottom/surface ▪ the salty *ocean* air ▪ *ocean* fish ▪ an *ocean* voyage/liner — see color picture on page C8

2 *or* **Ocean** [*count*] : one of the five large areas of salt water that cover much of the Earth's surface ▪ the Atlantic *Ocean* ▪ the Pacific and Indian *oceans* ▪ the Arctic/Antarctic *Ocean*

3 [*count*] *informal* : a very large number or amount *of* something ▪ an *ocean* of sadness — often plural ▪ *oceans* of time [=lots of time]

a drop in the ocean see ¹DROP

– oce·an·ic /ˌoʊʃiˈænɪk/ *adj, technical* ▪ *oceanic* birds/islands/waters

ocean·front /ˈoʊʃənˌfrʌnt/ *noun, pl* **-fronts** [*count*] *chiefly US* : the land that is next to the ocean ▪ They built a house on the *oceanfront*. — often used before another noun ▪ an *oceanfront* home/hotel/restaurant

ocean·go·ing /ˈoʊʃənˌgowɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : made for traveling on or across the ocean ▪ *oceangoing* ships

ocean·og·ra·phy /ˌoʊʃəˈnɑːgrəfi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a science that studies the ocean ▪ a professor of *oceanography*

– ocean·og·ra·pher /ˌoʊʃəˈnɑːgrəfɚ/ *noun, pl* **-phers** [*count*] **– ocean·o·graph·ic** /ˌoʊʃənəˈgræfɪk/ *adj* ▪ an *oceanographic* research

oce·lot /ˈɑːsəˌlɑːt/ *noun, pl* **-lots** [*count*] : a wildcat that lives mainly in Central and South America and that has light brown fur with black spots and stripes

ochre *or US* **ocher** /ˈoʊkɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : a type of red or yellow dirt that is used to make colored paints

2 : the color of ochre and especially of yellow ochre

o'·clock /əˈklɑːk/ *adv* : according to the clock — used when the time is a specific hour ▪ It's three *o'clock* in the afternoon. [=it's three p.m.] ▪ She was 10 minutes late for her 8 *o'clock* appointment. ▪ Be here at nine *o'clock*, not at nine fifteen.

Oct. *abbr* October

oc·ta·gon /ˈɑːktəˌgɑːn/ *noun, pl* **-gons** [*count*] *mathematics* : a flat shape that has eight sides and eight angles — see picture at GEOMETRY

– oc·tag·o·nal /ɑkˈtægənl̩/ *adj* ▪ a large *octagonal* table

oc·tane /ˈɑːkˌteɪn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a chemical in petroleum that is used to rate the quality of different kinds of gasoline ▪ an *octane* rating of 90 — see also HIGH-OCTANE

oc·tave /ˈɑːktɪv/ *noun, pl* **-taves** [*count*] *music* : the difference in sound between the first and eighth note on a musical scale ▪ He sang the song an *octave* lower. ▪ The two tones are (spaced) an *octave* apart.

oc·tet /ɑkˈtɛt/ *noun, pl* **-tets** [*count*]

1 : a song or piece of music performed by eight singers or musicians

2 : a group of eight singers or musicians who perform an octet

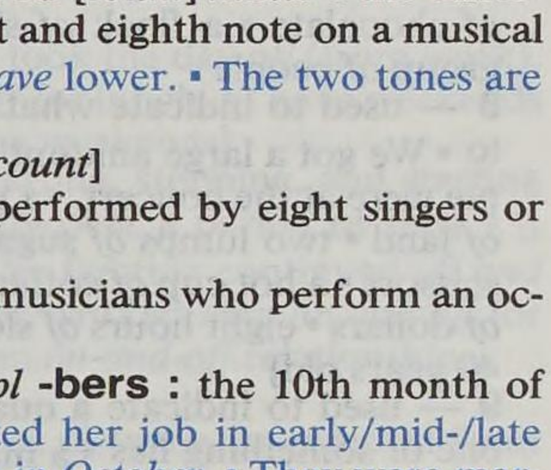
Oc·to·ber /ɑkˈtoʊbɚ/ *noun, pl* **-bers** : the 10th month of the year [*noncount*] She started her job in early/mid-/late *October*. ▪ He started early/late in *October*. ▪ They were married on *October* the eighteenth. = They were married on the eighteenth of *October*. = (*US*) They were married on *October* eighteenth. [*count*] This will be our last *October* in New England. ▪ Sales are up for this *October*. ▪ The event happens every *October*. — abbr. *Oct.*

oc·to·ge·nar·i·an /ˌɑːktəʤəˈnerijən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*] : a person who is between 80 and 89 years old

oc·to·pus /ˈɑːktəˌpʊs/ *noun, pl* **-pus·es** *or* **-pi** /-ˌpaɪ/

1 [*count*] : a sea animal that has a soft body and eight long arms

2 [*noncount*] : the flesh of an octopus used as food



octopus

oc·u·lar /ˈɑːkjələɚ/ *adj, technical* : of or relating to the eye ▪ *ocular* muscles/surgery

OD /ˌoʊˈdiː/ *verb* **OD's**; **OD'd** *or* **ODed**; **OD'·ing** [*no obj*] *informal*

1 : to become sick or die from taking too much of a drug : OVERDOSE — often + *on* ▪ She *OD'd on* heroin and died.

2 : to have or experience too much of something — often + *on* ▪ I *OD'd on* video games during my vacation.

odd /ˈɑːd/ *adj*

1 odd·er; -est [*also more ~; most ~*] : strange or unusual : different from what is normal or expected ▪ He has some *odd* [=*peculiar, weird*] habits. ▪ She had an *odd* look on her face. ▪ People would call at *odd* hours during the night. ▪ She's got a really *odd* sense of humor. ▪ Some rather *odd* people used to live in this house. ▪ There was something *odd* about his story. ▪ It's *odd* that nobody told me about this before. ▪ That's *odd*. He was here a minute ago. ▪ That is one of the *oddest* creatures I have ever seen. ▪ What an ***odd-looking*** animal. ▪ They made quite an ***odd couple***. [=they were very different from each other] ▪ He's an ***odd duck***. = (*Brit*) He's an ***odd fish***. [=he's a very strange person]

2 *always used before a noun* : happening in a way that is not planned or regular ▪ She kept a stack of magazines that she would read at *odd* moments. ▪ During the summer, he would do ***odd jobs*** for his neighbors to earn extra money.

3 *always used before a noun* : of different kinds or types ▪ I stopped by the grocery store to pick up a few *odd* [=*miscellaneous*] things. ▪ They were selling an *odd* assortment of candy and jewelry. ▪ a few *odd* [=*random*] bits of information

4 *always used before a noun* : not matched or paired with another thing or person ▪ I folded all the laundry and had one *odd* sock left. ▪ an *odd* shoe ▪ The students got into groups of two, and the *odd* student worked with the teacher.

5 a : not able to be divided into two equal whole numbers ▪ The numbers 1, 3, 5, and 7 are *odd*, while 2, 4, 6, and 8 are even. ▪ *odd* and even numbers ▪ There's an *odd* number of chairs. **b** : marked by an odd number ▪ There's a picture on every *odd* page of the book. ▪ Please do the *odd*-numbered problems on page 20 of your textbook. ▪ The *odd*-numbered houses are on the left side of the street.

6 *informal* : a little more than a particular number — used in combination with a number ▪ The book's only 100-*odd* pages long. [=only slightly more than 100 pages long] ▪ I'd guess that he's 40 *odd* years old. ▪ 30-*odd* years ago

the odd man/one out : the person or thing that is different from the other members of a group ▪ It looks like he's *the odd one out* on this particular issue. [=he has a different opinion than everyone else] ▪ All my college friends have gotten married. I'm *the odd man out*.

– odd·ness *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *oddness* [=*oddity, strangeness*] of the situation

odd·ball /ˈɑːdˌbɑːl/ *noun, pl* **-balls** [*count*] *informal* : a person who behaves in strange or unusual ways ▪ He used to be a real *oddball* back in high school.

– oddball *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ The film's *oddball* characters are hilarious. ▪ *oddball* behavior

odd·i·ty /ˈɑːdəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*count*] : a strange or unusual person or thing ▪ Her shyness makes her a bit of an *oddity* in the business world. ▪ The zoo has such *oddities* as anteaters and platypuses.

2 [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being strange or unusual ▪ the *oddity* [=*oddness, strangeness*] of the situation

odd·ly /ˈɑːdli/ *adv*

1 [*more ~; most ~*] : in a strange or unusual way ▪ the house's *oddly* shaped roof ▪ She had never been there before, but the place seemed *oddly* [=*strangely*] familiar to her. ▪ Their lives had been *oddly* similar.

2 — used to say that something is strange, odd, or surprising ▪ He felt, *oddly*, that he had been happier before becoming famous. ▪ It was cold and rainy, but ***oddly enough***, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.

odd·ments /ˈɑːdmənts/ *noun* [*plural*] : different kinds of things that are usually small and unimportant : ODDS AND ENDS ▪ The car has plenty of room for storing *oddments*.

odds /ˈɑːdz/ *noun* [*plural*]

1 : the possibility that something will happen : the chance that one thing will happen instead of a different thing ▪ She wanted to improve her *odds* [=*chances*] of winning. ▪ They believe that surgery may increase his *odds* of survival. [=may make it more likely that he will survive] ▪ There's a chance it could rain, but *odds* are that it'll be sunny tomorrow. [=it is more likely to be sunny than rainy tomorrow] ▪ The team has made some major improvements, but they still face ***long odds***. [=they still are not likely to win] — often used with *the* ▪ *The odds* are good that he'll survive. [=he is likely to survive] ▪ What are *the odds* of winning? ▪ What are *the odds* that they'll be there on time? ▪ Smoking increases *the odds* of getting lung cancer. ▪ *The odds* are in our favor. [=it is likely that we will succeed] ▪ She knew that *the odds* were against her. [=she knew that she was not likely to succeed] ▪ It could rain tomorrow, but *the odds* are against it. [=it probably will not

O

rain] ▪ *The odds* are in favor of a major storm this weekend. [=a major storm is likely this weekend]

2 : conditions that make it difficult for something to happen ▪ They fought against great/heavy/impossible/overwhelming *odds* and won. ▪ He was able to do it, ***against all odds***. [=even though it was very difficult and unlikely] — often used with *the* ▪ They defied/overcame *the odds*. ▪ ***Despite/against the odds***, she has survived breast cancer. ▪ I tried to ***beat the odds***. [=to succeed even though I was not likely to succeed]

3 : two numbers that show how much a person can win by betting a certain amount of money ▪ I bet $1,000 at 4–1 *odds*. If the horse I bet on wins, I will walk away with $4,000. ▪ winning at *odds* of 6–1

at odds : not agreeing with each other : in a state of disagreement ▪ The parents and teachers are still *at odds* (about/over what to teach the students). — often + *with* ▪ The two groups have long been *at odds with* each other. ▪ He was completely *at odds* [=he completely disagreed] *with* the way the problem was being handled. ▪ The results of the study are *at odds with* our previous findings.

make no odds *Brit, informal* — used to say that a choice is not important ▪ It *makes no odds* [=*makes no difference*] to me when we leave.

odds are in favor see ¹FAVOR

over the odds *Brit, informal* : more than the usual or expected amount ▪ We had to ***pay over the odds*** to get good seats for the concert.

what's the odds? *Brit, informal* — used to say that something is not likely to have an effect or make a difference ▪ He'll do it anyway, so *what's the odds* [=*what's the use*] of telling him not to?

odds and ends *noun* [*plural*] *informal* : different kinds of things that are usually small and unimportant ▪ There are still a few *odds and ends* that need to be done before the party tomorrow. ▪ The box is full of *odds and ends*. — called also (*Brit, informal*) *odds and sods*

odds–on /ˈɑːdzˈɑːn/ *adj* : having a very good chance to win : believed to be likely to win ▪ They're the *odds-on* favorite to win the championship. = They are *odds-on* to win the championship.

ode /ˈoʊd/ *noun, pl* **odes** [*count*] : a poem in which a person expresses a strong feeling of love or respect for someone or something ▪ This poem is titled, "An *Ode* to My Mother."

odi•ous /ˈoʊdijəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : causing hatred or strong dislike ▪ It was one of the most *odious* crimes of recent history. ▪ an *odious* criminal

odom•e•ter /oʊˈdɑːmətɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a device in a car, truck, etc., that measures the distance that the vehicle has traveled — called also (*Brit*) *mileometer*; see picture at CAR; compare SPEEDOMETER, TACHOMETER

odor (*US*) *or Brit* **odour** /ˈoʊdɚ/ *noun, pl* **odors** : a particular smell [*count*] The cheese has a strong *odor*. ▪ a fishy *odor* [*noncount*] This deodorant prevents bad *odor* from occurring. — see also BODY ODOR

– **odor•less** (*US*) *or Brit* **odour•less** /ˈoʊdɚləs/ *adj* ▪ a colorless and *odorless* gas

odor•ous /ˈoʊdərəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *technical + formal* : having a strong smell ▪ an *odorous* gas ▪ *Odorous* cheeses need to be tightly wrapped.

od•ys•sey /ˈɑːdəsi/ *noun, pl* **-seys** [*count*]

1 *literary* : a long journey full of adventures

2 : a series of experiences that give knowledge or understanding to someone ▪ The story is about the emotional *odyssey* experienced by a teenage girl. ▪ the spiritual *odyssey* of the deeply religious

oe•di•pal *or* **Oe•di•pal** /ˈɛdəpəl, *Brit* ˈiːdəpəl/ *adj, psychology* : of, relating to, or resulting from an Oedipus complex ▪ *oedipal* fantasies/myths ▪ an *oedipal* relationship

Oe•di•pus complex /ˈɛdəpəs-, *Brit* ˈiːdəpəs-/ *noun* [*singular*] *psychology* : a sexual desire that a child feels toward the parent of the opposite sex along with jealous feelings toward the parent of the same sex

¹o'er /ˈoɚ/ *adv, literary* : ¹OVER ▪ when the night is *o'er*

²o'er /ˈoɚ/ *prep, literary* : ²OVER ▪ *o'er* hill and dale

oesophagus *Brit spelling of* ESOPHAGUS

oestrogen *Brit spelling of* ESTROGEN

oeu•vre /ˈʊvrə, *Brit* ˈəːvrə/ *noun, pl* **-vres** [*count*] *formal* : all the works that a writer, an artist, or a composer has created — usually singular ▪ Her *oeuvre* consists mostly of landscapes.

of /ˈʌv, əv, *Brit* ˈɒv, əv, ə/ *prep*

1 : belonging to, relating to, or connected with (someone or something) ▪ He is a coworker *of* mine. ▪ I threw out that old shirt *of* yours. ▪ She's a friend *of* my mother's. ▪ He had the support *of* his family to help him. ▪ the plays *of* William Shakespeare ▪ What is the name *of* the band? ▪ We admired the courage *of* the young woman. ▪ the President *of* the United States ▪ the Queen *of* England ▪ What is the total cost *of* the repairs? ▪ The value *of* the antique is high. ▪ the responsibility/duty *of* parents ▪ the work *of* the artist ▪ the behavior *of* the child ▪ the actions *of* the President ▪ the results *of* the experiment ▪ The score *of* the game is tied. ▪ The product *of* 2 times 2 is 4. ▪ I can't stand the sight *of* it. [=I can't stand seeing it] ▪ the color *of* the dress ▪ the social issues *of* the time ▪ the greatest invention *of* the 20th century ▪ She was voted (Most Outstanding) Woman *of* the Year. ▪ the top *of* the mountain ▪ The leg *of* the table is loose. ▪ a masterpiece *of* modern fiction ▪ the fourth *of* July [=the fourth day in the month of July] ▪ We are having a party on the day *of* graduation. ▪ Where were you at the time *of* the murder? ▪ She told a story *of* [=*about*] her travels in Italy. ▪ The news/announcement *of* our victory was greeted with delight. ▪ He dreams *of* becoming rich and famous. ▪ He was neglectful *of* his duties.

2 — used to indicate that someone or something belongs to a group of people or things ▪ He is one *of* my friends. ▪ This is page one *of* two (pages). ▪ Many/Most *of* the students will be going on the field trip. ▪ The four *of* us enjoyed ourselves at the party. ▪ members *of* the team ▪ *Of* (all) my friends, you are the only one I really trust. ▪ She is the older/younger *of* my two sisters. ▪ He has written two novels, ***of which*** the first is the best. = He has written two novels, the first *of which* is the best.

3 : living or occurring in (a specified country, city, town, etc.) ▪ the people *of* Puerto Rico ▪ a fish *of* the western Atlantic ▪ a plant *of* the tropics

4 : showing (someone or something) ▪ a painting *of* a mother holding her child ▪ a picture *of* my house

5 — used to indicate the thing that is being referred to ▪ the country *of* Ireland ▪ the city *of* Rome ▪ the month *of* August ▪ the crime *of* murder ▪ a good piece *of* advice ▪ 1758 is the year *of* Noah Webster's birth. ▪ a difference *of* $5 ▪ The savings account has an interest rate *of* 5 percent. ▪ The arrangement includes several kinds *of* flowers. = The arrangement includes flowers *of* several kinds.

6 : involving or dealing with (something) ▪ a test *of* basic skills ▪ the Department *of* Agriculture

7 — used to indicate what something is made from or includes ▪ a throne *of* gold = a throne made (out) *of* gold ▪ a bar *of* chocolate ▪ a flock *of* sheep ▪ a herd *of* cattle ▪ a small group *of* people

8 — used to indicate what an amount, number, etc., refers to ▪ We got a large amount *of* rain. ▪ A small number *of* people were at the concert. ▪ a pound *of* sliced cheese ▪ two acres *of* land ▪ two lumps *of* sugar ▪ a big piece *of* cake ▪ a pair *of* scissors ▪ a hot cup *of* coffee = a cup *of* hot coffee ▪ hundreds *of* dollars ▪ eight hours *of* sleep ▪ He is 40 years *of* age. [=he is 40 years old]

9 — used to indicate a quality or characteristic that someone or something has ▪ a man *of* noble birth ▪ He is *of* Polish descent. ▪ a boy *of* 12 (years of age) ▪ a woman *of* [=*with*] great wealth ▪ She is the girl *of* his dreams. [=she has all the qualities that he is attracted to] ▪ She recently lost her husband *of* 30 years. [=her husband who she was married to for 30 years before he died] ▪ a matter *of* no importance ▪ The house is *of* his own design. ▪ The trash smells *of* fish.

10 — used to indicate the location of something ▪ The cabins are north *of* the lake. ▪ The arrow went wide *of* the target. [=the arrow missed the target] ▪ The dart landed to the left/right *of* the bull's-eye. ▪ The shark passed within five feet *of* me.

11 a — used to indicate the subject of an action ▪ the arrival *of* guests ▪ the departure *of* the ship ▪ the landing *of* the airplane **b** — used to indicate the object of an action ▪ the evaluation *of* students ▪ the destruction *of* property ▪ The police conducted an investigation *of* the crime. ▪ She asked a favor *of* [=*from*] me. ▪ Can you think *of* his name? ▪ I thought *of* calling you. **c** — used to indicate the cause of a specified feeling or opinion ▪ He has a love *of* [=*for*] nature. ▪ He has a fear *of* spiders. ▪ I'm so proud *of* you. = I'm so proud *of* what you have done. ▪ She is fond *of* chocolate. **d** — used to indicate the reason for something ▪ He died *of* [=*from*] pneumonia. ▪ They left *of* their own free will.

12 — used to indicate what has been taken away, removed, or given away ▪ She was robbed *of* her fortune. ▪ The con man cheated him (out) *of* his money. ▪ He was stripped *of* all

his titles. ▪ The cats helped rid the barn *of* rats. ▪ He gave generously *of* his time. [=he gave his time generously]
13 — used to indicate that someone has behaved in a specified way ▪ It was very kind/nice *of* you to say that. [=you were very kind/nice to say that]
14 *US* — used to indicate that there is a specified amount of time left before the next hour begins ▪ It's a quarter *of* [=*to, before*] ten. [=9:45] ▪ 10 (minutes) *of* 10 [=9:50]
15 *old-fashioned* — used to indicate the time when something happens or happened ▪ You can often see him walking in the park *of* an afternoon. ▪ He died *of* [=*on*] a Monday.
as of see ²AS
of a *US, informal* — used to indicate that someone or something is a particular type of person or thing ▪ her idiot *of a* husband [=her idiot/idiotic husband] ▪ Some fool *of a* policeman had arrested the wrong man! ▪ It is not that much *of a* problem. [=it is not a big problem] ▪ It wasn't that difficult *of a* shot. [=it was not a difficult shot] ▪ It wasn't that big *of a* deal. ▪ How big *of a* piece do you want?
of all (the) see ¹ALL
of course see ¹COURSE

OF *abbr* outfield

¹off /ˈɑːf/ *adv*

1 a : away from a place ▪ The dog ran *off*. ▪ The car sped *off*. ▪ She put on her jacket and *off* she went. ▪ We get *off* at the next bus stop. [=we exit the bus at the next stop] **b** : away from a main road, path, etc. ▪ The car turned *off* onto a side street.
2 : at a distance in time or space ▪ Football season is not far *off*. [=football season will start soon] ▪ The completion of the new office building is still a long way *off*. [=it will be a long time before the new office building is finished]
3 — used to describe something that moves or is moved so that it is no longer on something or attached to something ▪ She set the ball on the table and it rolled *off*. ▪ His hat fell *off*. ▪ He twisted *off* the cap. ▪ The handle on the pan broke *off*. ▪ She took *off* her coat.
4 : into sleep ▪ I dozed *off* in the chair. ▪ He closed his eyes and drifted *off* (to sleep).
5 a — used to describe stopping something ▪ Shut *off* the water. ▪ Shut *off* the engine. ▪ Turn the TV *off*. **b** — used to describe getting something into a desired condition especially by removing something ▪ I need to smooth *off* the corners of the bookshelf. ▪ I dusted *off* the shelves. ▪ She wiped the counter *off*. **c** — used to describe finishing something ▪ We paid *off* all our debts. ▪ Can you finish *off* the pizza? There are only two slices left.
6 : away from regular work ▪ I took the day *off* (from work). ▪ At noon, workers take time *off* for lunch. ▪ I have weekends *off*. [=I do not go to work on the weekends]
off and on *or* ***on and off*** : starting, stopping, and starting again : not constant or steady over a period of time ▪ It rained *off and on* all day. ▪ The fighting continued *off and on* throughout the years. ▪ She worked here *on and off* for several years. ▪ They've had an *on-and-off* relationship.

²off *prep*

1 — used to indicate separation, distance, or removal from someone or something ▪ She cut a slice *off* the loaf. ▪ The ball bounced *off* the wall. ▪ She stepped *off* the train and looked around. ▪ There are many paths *off* the main trail around the mountain. ▪ There is a bathroom *off* the kitchen. ▪ The shop is just *off* the main street. ▪ He had his wallet stolen *off* him. ▪ Keep *off* the grass. ▪ Get your feet *off* the table. ▪ The boat was two miles *off* the coast. ▪ The discussion got/moved *off* the original subject. ▪ My favorite dish has been taken *off* the menu. ▪ I'll take your name *off* the list. ▪ She wore the gown *off* the shoulder.
2 : on money, food, energy, etc., supplied by (someone or something) ▪ She is still living *off* her parents. ▪ The family lives *off* welfare. ▪ They live *off* the land. ▪ They make their living *off* tourism. ▪ The machine runs *off* [=*on*] diesel fuel.
3 — used to indicate something that someone is no longer doing or using ▪ She has recently gone *off* smoking. ▪ He is *off* his diet. ▪ The officers were *off* duty. ▪ I took a day *off* work. ▪ He has been *off* liquor for three years.
4 — used to indicate the object of an action ▪ I borrowed a dollar *off* [=*from*] him. ▪ I bought a CD *off* him. [=he sold a CD to me]
5 — used to indicate the source or cause of something ▪ He spent all the money he made *off* [=*from*] gambling.
6 : below the usual standard or level of (something) ▪ (*chiefly US*) He is *off* his game. [=he is not playing as well as he usually does] ▪ The DVDs are being offered at 15 percent *off* the regular price. ▪ I asked him to knock $100 *off* the price.
off of *chiefly US, informal* : OFF ▪ She fell *off of* the swing. ▪ farmers who live *off of* the land ▪ He is *off of* his diet. ▪ We ate *off of* paper plates. ▪ 15 percent *off of* the regular price

³off *adj*

1 *not used before a noun* : not attached to or covering something : not on ▪ The lid is *off*.
2 a *not used before a noun* : not operating, functioning, or flowing ▪ The radio is *off*. ▪ The electricity/water is *off*. **b** : in a position that stops the flow of electricity, water, etc. ▪ The switch is *off*. ▪ The lever is in the *off* position.
3 : away from home or work ▪ He is *off* playing golf. ▪ She is *off* on a trip/vacation. ▪ He's *off* today. ▪ They enjoy hiking and biking on their *off* days. [=the days when they are not working] ▪ She is *off* [=*out*] sick today.
4 *not used before a noun* : not happening ▪ The deal/game that was on is now *off*. [=has been canceled] ▪ In case of a tie, all bets are *off*.
5 *not used before a noun, chiefly US* : not correct : WRONG ▪ I must be *off* in my calculations. ▪ These numbers are *off*. ▪ Your guess is ***way off***!
6 *always used before a noun* : very small in degree : SLIGHT ▪ There is an ***off chance*** that you will win.
7 *always used before a noun* : not as busy or active as other periods of time ▪ an *off* time of year ▪ We vacation during the ***off season***.
8 *not used before a noun* : not completely sane ▪ The poor fellow is a little *off* (in the head).
9 *not used before a noun* — used to ask about or describe someone's situation or condition ▪ Are you better or worse *off* financially than you were a year ago? ▪ The other accident victims are much worse *off* than she is. [=her injuries are not as bad as theirs] ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) We're comfortably *off*. ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) How are you *off* for money? [=how are you for money?; do you need money?] — see also BETTER OFF, WELL-OFF
10 *not used before a noun, chiefly US* : below the usual price or value ▪ Stocks are *off* [=*down*] today. ▪ The DVDs are 15 percent *off*.
11 *chiefly US* : not as good as usual ▪ My golf game is *off* today. [=I am not playing golf as well as I usually do] ▪ I am having an *off* day.
12 *not used before a noun, Brit* : not being served : no longer on the menu ▪ Sorry, love, the steak-and-kidney pie is *off*.
13 *not used before a noun, chiefly Brit* : no longer fresh : SPOILED ▪ The milk has gone *off*. = The milk is *off*.
14 *not used before a noun, Brit, informal* : not polite or friendly ▪ His manners were a bit *off*, don't you think? ▪ She felt he was being *off* with her.
be off : to leave : to start going, running, etc. ▪ I must *be off* [=I must leave now] if I want to make the next bus. ▪ And the runners *are off*. [=the runners have started running] ▪ They're *off* and running!

⁴off *verb* **offs**; **offed**; **off·ing** [+ *obj*] *US slang* : to kill or murder (someone) ▪ The movie is about a gangster who gets power by *offing* his rivals.

⁵off *noun*

the off *Brit* **1** : the beginning of a race **2** : the very beginning ▪ Right ***from the off*** [=(*US*) *from the get-go*], I knew she was against me.

off–air *adj, always used before a noun* : occurring when a radio or television program is not being recorded ▪ an *off-air* conversation

of·fal /ˈɑːfəl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the organs (such as the liver or kidney) of an animal that are used for food ▪ beef *offal*

off·beat /ˈɑːfˌbiːt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : different from the ordinary, usual, or expected ▪ She has an *offbeat* sense of humor. ▪ He often plays *offbeat* characters in his films. ▪ an *offbeat* approach to teaching ▪ The performance was refreshingly *offbeat*.

off–brand /ˈɑːfˌbrænd/ *adj* : not sold or made under a particular brand name ▪ *off-brand* sneakers/soda/cereal/cigarettes

off–Broadway *or* **Off–Broadway** *adj* : relating to theater in New York City that involves productions that are smaller and often less conventional than typical Broadway productions ▪ an *off-Broadway* production/show/play
– **off–Broadway** *or* **Off–Broadway** *adv* ▪ The play opened *off-Broadway*. ▪ He performed *off-Broadway* for years.

off–center (*US*) *or Brit* **off–centre** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

O

1 *not used before a noun* : not exactly in the center of something ▪ The mirror over the sink is a little bit *off-center*. ▪ The title is slightly *off-center* on the page.
2 : different or unusual ▪ He has an *off-center* sense of humor.
– **off–center** (*US*) *or Brit* **off–centre** *adv* ▪ He hung the picture *off-center*.

off–col•or (*US*) *or Brit* **off–col•our** /ˈɑːfˈkʌlɚ/ *or US* **off–col•ored** *or Brit* **off–col•oured** /ˈɑːfˈkʌlɚd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 *not used before a noun* : feeling somewhat ill : not quite well ▪ He has been *off-color* for a few days.
2 *chiefly US* : not socially acceptable : indecent or improper ▪ We were shocked by his *off-color* [=*rude, offensive*] remarks. ▪ an *off-color* joke

off•cut /ˈɑːfˌkʌt/ *noun, pl* **-cuts** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a piece of wood, cloth, etc., that remains after a larger piece is removed

off–duty *adj* : free from the responsibilities of your job : not working at a particular time ▪ an *off-duty* cop

of•fend /əˈfɛnd/ *verb* **-fends**; **-fend•ed**; **-fend•ing**
1 : to cause (a person or group) to feel hurt, angry, or upset by something said or done [+ *obj*] His comments about minority groups *offended* many of us. ▪ She had carefully worded her comments so as not to *offend* anyone. ▪ It *offends* me that you would make such a remark. ▪ Don't worry. I wasn't *offended*. ▪ I felt a little *offended* by their lack of respect. ▪ Some people are *offended* by the song's lyrics. ▪ I'm sorry, I didn't mean to *offend* you. [*no obj*] I'm sorry, I didn't mean to *offend*.
2 [+ *obj*] : to be unpleasant to (someone or something) ▪ The billboard ***offends the eye***. [=the billboard is not attractive]
3 [*no obj*] *formal* : to do wrong : to be against what people believe is acceptable or proper — often + *against* ▪ Her actions *offended against* our sensibilities.
4 [*no obj*] *formal* : to commit a crime ▪ Is he likely to *offend* again after his release from prison?

of•fend•er /əˈfɛndɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a person who commits a crime ▪ a ***repeat offender*** [=someone who has committed a crime more than once] ▪ She recently prosecuted a ***sex/sexual offender***. [=someone who commits sex crimes] — see also FIRST OFFENDER
2 : someone or something that does something harmful or wrong ▪ The factory is one of the worst *offenders* in terms of air and water pollution.

offending *adj, always used before a noun*
1 *often humorous* : causing difficulty, discomfort, or harm ▪ He took off his shoe and removed the *offending* pebble. [=the pebble that was making it uncomfortable to walk]
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing disapproval ▪ We agreed to omit the *offending* word from the passage.
3 : guilty of doing something wrong ▪ The *offending* driver was given a ticket for speeding.

of•fense (*US*) *or Brit* **of•fence** /əˈfɛns/ *noun, pl* **-fens•es**
1 a [*noncount*] : something that causes a person to be hurt, angry, or upset ▪ She didn't mean to ***give/cause offense***. [=to offend anyone] ▪ I ***mean no offense*** [=I do not want to offend anyone], but isn't there someone more qualified for the job? ▪ ***No offense*** [=I do not want to offend you when I say this], but I think you are mistaken. **b** [*count*] : something that is wrong or improper — often + *to* ▪ His actions are an *offense to* public morals. — often + *against* ▪ Such language is an *offense against* common decency.
2 [*count*] : a criminal act ▪ He was found guilty and fined $250 for each *offense*. ▪ Penalties for a first *offense* range from fines to jail time. ▪ a capital/federal/criminal *offense* ▪ serious/minor *offenses*
3 /ˈɑːˌfɛns/ *US, sports* **a** : the group of players on a team who try to score points or goals against an opponent [*count*] Our team has the best *offense* in the league. ▪ a talented *offense* ▪ The quarterback directs the *offense*. [*noncount*] She began the season ***on offense*** [=playing on the part of the team that tries to score points or goals], but her coach later put her on defense. **b** [*noncount*] : the way that players on a team try to score points or goals against an opponent ▪ The team needs some work on its *offense*. ▪ The team plays good *offense*. — compare DEFENSE 6
take offense : to become angry or upset by something that another person has said or done : to be offended by something ▪ He *took offense* when I suggested exchanging the gift. — often + *at* ▪ She *takes offense at* any criticism.

[1]of•fen•sive /əˈfɛnsɪv/ *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing someone to feel hurt, angry, or upset : rude or insulting ▪ He made some *offensive* remarks. ▪ *offensive* words/terms — often + *to* ▪ The song lyrics are *offensive to* women. [=women are offended by the song lyrics] ▪ His behavior is *offensive to* many people. — opposite INOFFENSIVE
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very unpleasant ▪ An *offensive* odor was coming from the basement.
3 *always used before a noun, sports* : of or relating to the way that players try to score against an opponent in a game or contest ▪ an *offensive* position/strategy ▪ an *offensive* lineman/player — compare [1]DEFENSIVE 3
4 *always used before a noun* : relating to or designed for attacking an enemy ▪ The troops will take *offensive* action against the enemy. ▪ We studied their *offensive* maneuvers and anticipated the attack. ▪ *offensive* weapons — compare [1]DEFENSIVE 1
– **of•fen•sive•ly** *adv* ▪ *Offensively*, the team is strong. – **of•fen•sive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *offensiveness* of his remarks

[2]offensive *noun, pl* **-sives** [*count*] : a large military attack — usually singular ▪ They plan to launch an air *offensive* before sending in ground troops. ▪ a ground *offensive* — often used figuratively ▪ Union leaders have mounted an *offensive* against the company's proposal to limit health benefits. — see also COUNTEROFFENSIVE
on the offensive : in or into a situation or position in which you attack or fight against someone or something ▪ The soldiers are *on the offensive*. ▪ She ***went on the offensive*** to fight the charges against her. ▪ The team was on the defensive in the early part of the game but they *went on the offensive* in the second half.
take the offensive : to begin to attack or fight against someone or something ▪ Opponents of the development project *took the offensive* and defeated the land sale.

[1]of•fer /ˈɑːfɚ/ *verb* **-fers**; **-fered**; **-fer•ing**
1 a [+ *obj*] : to give someone the opportunity to accept or take (something) ▪ We'd like to *offer* the job to you. = We'd like to *offer* you the job. ▪ I was *offered* a position at a bank, but I turned it down. ▪ She *offered* [=she said that she would pay] $250,000 for the house. ▪ The victims were *offered* money as compensation for their injuries. ▪ I *offered* her my hand/arm [=I held out my hand/arm for her to grasp], and she took it. ▪ I *offered* my assistance. ▪ If I may, I'd like to *offer* you a bit of advice. **b** : to say that you are willing *to do* something [+ *obj*] One of his neighbors *offered to mow* his lawn. ▪ A woman stopped and *offered to help* us. [*no obj*] We don't need any help, but thank you for *offering*.
2 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) available : to provide or supply (something) ▪ They *offer* [=*sell*] a wide range of products/services at reasonable prices. ▪ A few of my teachers *offer* [=*give*] extra help after class. ▪ They *offer* their customers a choice between soup or salad. ▪ The car *offers* [=*has*] a wide range of safety features. ▪ Living in a large city *offers* a number of advantages. ▪ They serve the best food this town has to *offer*. [=the best food in the town] ▪ This city has so much to *offer*. [=there are many good and interesting things to do and see in this city] ▪ She has a great deal to *offer*. [=she has many talents, abilities, good qualities, etc.] — often + *up* ▪ The restaurant *offers up* a completely new menu every season.
3 [+ *obj*] : to say or express (something) as an idea to be thought about or considered ▪ I'd like to *offer* a couple of comments/remarks/observations on the points you've raised. ▪ I really don't know enough about it to *offer* an opinion. ▪ She *offers* [=*proposes, suggests*] another possible explanation in her book. ▪ The film *offers* a unique perspective on the issue. — often + *up* ▪ Would anyone else like to *offer up* a suggestion?
4 [+ *obj*] : to say or give (something, such as a prayer or a sacrifice) as a form of religious worship ▪ Let us bow our heads and *offer* a prayer of thanks. ▪ *offer* a sacrifice — often + *up* ▪ *offering up* prayers to the saints
offer resistance : to try to resist or fight ▪ The people *offered* no *resistance* when the enemy entered the town.

[2]offer *noun, pl* **-fers** [*count*]
1 : the act of giving someone the opportunity to accept something : the act of offering something ▪ I don't really need any help, but I appreciate the *offer*. [=thanks for offering to help] ▪ After considering several job *offers*, she accepted a position with a local bank. ▪ He turned down an *offer* to run the company. ▪ Take advantage of our 30-day trial *offer*. [=try our product free for 30 days] ▪ She received an *offer* of marriage. [=someone proposed marriage to her]

2 : an amount of money that someone is willing to pay for something ▪ I'll pay $500. That's my final/best *offer*. [=I won't pay more] ▪ We accepted/rejected their *offer*. ▪ We decided to hold out for a better *offer*. ▪ They ***made an offer*** on our house. [=they said that they would pay a specified amount of money for our house] ▪ "How much do you want for the bike?" "I don't know. *Make* me *an offer*." — see also TENDER OFFER

3 : an opportunity to buy something at a price that is lower than the usual price ▪ This ***special offer*** is good only while supplies last.

on offer *chiefly Brit* : available to be bought especially at low prices : on sale ▪ The store has a wide range of cameras *on offer* at reasonable prices. ▪ Eggs are *on offer* [=(*chiefly US*) *on special*] this week.

of•fer•ing /ˈɑːfərɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*]

1 a : something that is given to God or a god as a part of religious worship ▪ ceremonial/sacrificial *offerings* **b** : an act of giving a religious offering ▪ Each household must ***make*** daily ***offerings*** to the gods. — see also PEACE OFFERING

2 : something that is available for sale or use ▪ The company is trying to generate interest in its new *offerings*. ▪ the café's tasty dessert *offerings* — see also INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING

of•fer•to•ry /ˈɑːfəˌtori, *Brit* ˈɒfətri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*]

1 *or* ***Offertory*** **a** : the offering of bread and wine to God as part of the Communion ceremony during a Christian church service **b** : a verse from a psalm that is said or sung at the beginning of the Offertory

2 a : the part of a Christian church service during which offerings of money are collected **b** : the music played or sung during an offertory

[1]off•hand /ˈɑːfˈhænd/ *adv* : without previous thought or preparation ▪ I couldn't give them the figures *offhand*. ▪ Do you happen to know, *offhand*, when he'll be back?

[2]offhand *also* **off•hand•ed** /ˈɑːfˈhændəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : done or made without previous thought or preparation ▪ It was just an *offhand* remark. ▪ *offhand* excuses

2 : casual or informal ▪ She spoke in an *offhand* manner.

– **off•hand•ed•ly** *adv* ▪ I *offhandedly* asked where he worked.

of•fice /ˈɑːfəs/ *noun, pl* **-fic•es**

1 [*count*] **a** : a building or room in which people work at desks doing business or professional activities ▪ She works at/in our Chicago *office*. ▪ Are you going to the *office* today? ▪ The company's ***main/home office*** [=the company's most important office] is in San Francisco. — often used before another noun ▪ A new *office* building [=a building with offices] is being built on Main Street. ▪ *office* equipment/supplies ▪ Our company is having an *office* party [=a party for the people who work at the office] next week. ▪ The company is renting *office* space downtown. ▪ *office* workers/staff — see picture on the next page **b** : a room with a desk where a particular person works ▪ The supervisor held an informal meeting in his *office*. ▪ Her *office* is on the top floor near the elevator. ▪ He misbehaved in class and was sent to the principal's *office*. ▪ We use the extra bedroom in our house as an *office*. **c** *chiefly US* : a building or room where a doctor, lawyer, etc., works and meets with patients or clients ▪ We stopped by the lawyer's *office* to pick up some documents. ▪ the doctor's *office* [=(*Brit*) *surgery*] — see also BOX OFFICE, OVAL OFFICE, TICKET OFFICE

2 : the job or position of someone who has authority especially in the government [*noncount*] He has been in *office* for a decade. ▪ He was voted out of *office*. ▪ He won the election and will ***take office*** at the beginning of the year. ▪ She has decided to ***leave office*** after two successful terms. ▪ She plans to ***run for office*** [=campaign to be elected to an office] again. ▪ U.S. senators are elected to a ***term of office*** of six years. [*count*] She has held several public *offices*.

3 [*count*] : a department of a company, organization, government, or school. ▪ She went to the unemployment *office*. ▪ Where is the registrar's *office* on campus? ▪ the U.S. Patent *Office* — see also FOREIGN OFFICE, HOME OFFICE, POST OFFICE, REGISTER OFFICE, REGISTRY OFFICE

good offices *formal* : help from someone who has power or authority ▪ I got the interview ***through the good offices of*** a former classmate.

office boy *noun, pl* ~ **boys** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a boy or man employed to do simple jobs in an office

office girl *noun, pl* ~ **girls** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a girl or woman employed to do simple jobs in an office

of•fice•hold•er /ˈɑːfəsˌhoʊldɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who has an official job or position especially in the government ▪ the city's/state's *officeholders*

office hours *noun* [*plural*]

1 : the time during the day when people work in an office ▪ Our *office hours* are 8:30 to 4:00 Monday through Friday.

2 *US* : the time during the day when a teacher is available to meet with students in his or her office ▪ She has *office hours* Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00.

3 *US* : a time during the day when people can see a doctor or dentist — called also (*Brit*) *surgery*

of•fi•cer /ˈɑːfəsɚ/ *noun, pl* **-cers** [*count*]

1 : a member of a police force : POLICE OFFICER — often used as a title ▪ *Officer* Ruiz responded to the call. — see also PROBATION OFFICER

2 : a person who has an important position in a company, organization, or government ▪ The bank's *officers* [=*executives*] will meet next week. — see also CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, RETURNING OFFICER

3 : a person who has a position of authority or command in the military ▪ an *officer* in the navy = a naval *officer* — see also COMMANDING OFFICER, PETTY OFFICER, STAFF OFFICER

[1]of•fi•cial /əˈfɪʃəl/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* : of or relating to the job or work of someone in a position of authority ▪ *official* responsibilities ▪ She was accused of destroying *official* documents. ▪ Her illness did not prevent her from performing her *official* duties. ▪ The Vice President is on an *official* trip/visit.

2 a — used to describe something that is said in a public way by someone in a position of authority ▪ We're still waiting for an *official* announcement of his resignation. ▪ It's *official*. His resignation has been accepted. ▪ The *official* explanation is that he hurt himself accidentally, but many people suspect that he was injured in a fight. **b** — used to describe something that is done in a public and often formal way ▪ The museum's *official* opening will be next month. ▪ an *official* ceremony

3 *always used before a noun* : proper for or used by someone who has a position of authority ▪ We extended an *official* greeting to the ambassador. ▪ the mayor's *official* residence

4 *always used before a noun* : having authority ▪ *Official* sources have confirmed the rumor. : having authority to perform a service or duty ▪ He attended the funeral as the president's *official* representative. ▪ the *official* government of the 13 colonies

5 : permitted, accepted, or approved by the government or by a person or organization that has authority ▪ What is your country's *official* language? ▪ an *official* major-league baseball ▪ The change in the policy should soon be *official*.

– **of•fi•cial•ly** *adv* ▪ The museum *officially* opens next month. ▪ The company's name was *officially* changed in 1982. ▪ She *officially* entered the race for mayor.

[2]official *noun, pl* **-cials** [*count*]

1 : a person who has a position of authority in a company, organization, or government : a person who holds an office ▪ She interviewed a senior *official* from the previous administration. ▪ public/government/city *officials* ▪ A company *official* responded to our request.

2 : a person (such as a referee or umpire) who makes sure that players are following the rules of a game ▪ a football *official*

of•fi•cial•dom /əˈfɪʃəldəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* + *often disapproving* : the people in an organization or government who are in positions of authority ▪ church *officialdom*

of•fi•cial•ese /əˌfɪʃəˈliːz/ *noun* [*noncount*] *usually disapproving* + *formal* : the language used in official documents that is difficult for most people to understand ▪ The documents were full of confusing *officialese*.

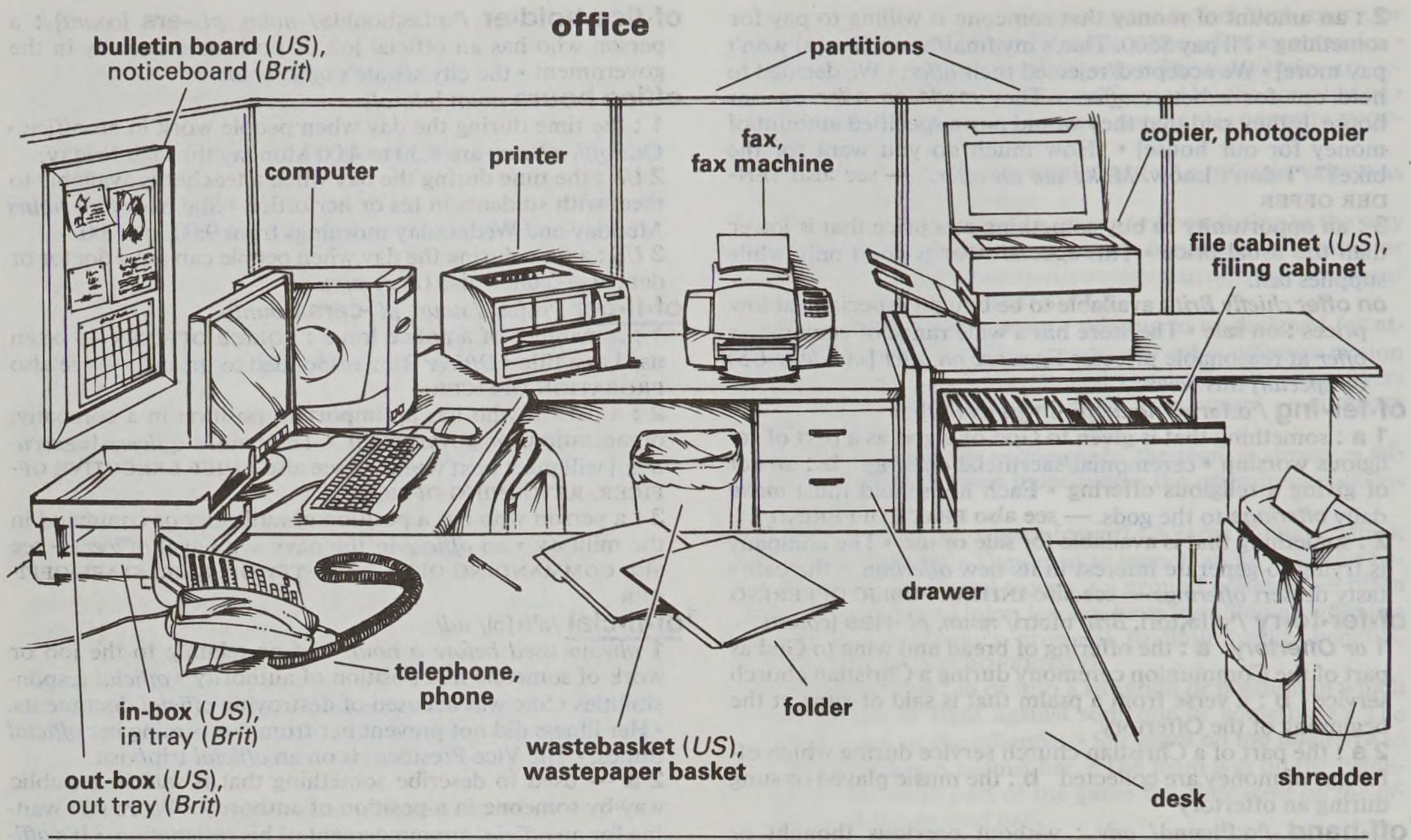
of•fi•ci•ate /əˈfɪʃiˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing**

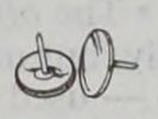
1 *formal* : to perform the official duties of a ceremony [*no obj*] — usually + *at* ▪ Our parish priest *officiated at* our wedding. ▪ The mayor *officiated at* the opening of the new public library. [+ *obj*] The bishop *officiated* the memorial Mass.

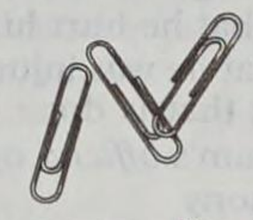
2 *sports* : to be a referee, umpire, or judge at a game, tournament, etc. [*no obj*] — usually + *at* ▪ She *officiated at* the tennis match. [+ *obj*] Two referees *officiated* the hockey game.

of•fi•cious /əˈfɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving* — used to describe an annoying person who tries to tell other people what to do in a way that is not wanted or needed ▪ After the boss told his workers what to do, his *officious* assistant stepped in to supervise.

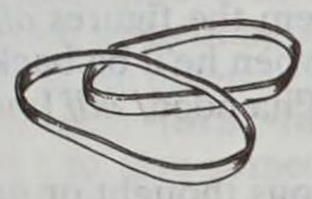
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thumbtacks (*US*), drawing pins (*Brit*)

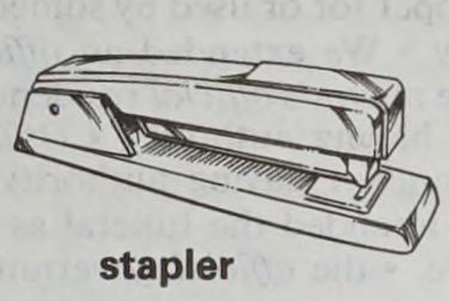

paper clips


pushpins (*US*)

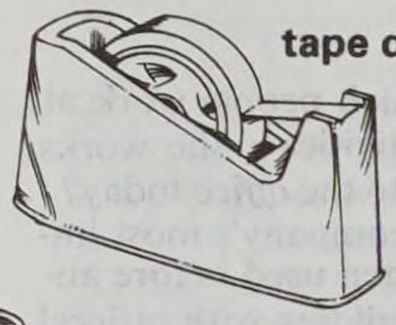

rubber bands, elastics (*US*), elastic bands (*Brit*)

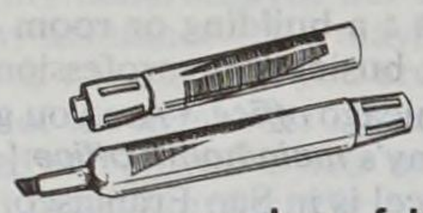


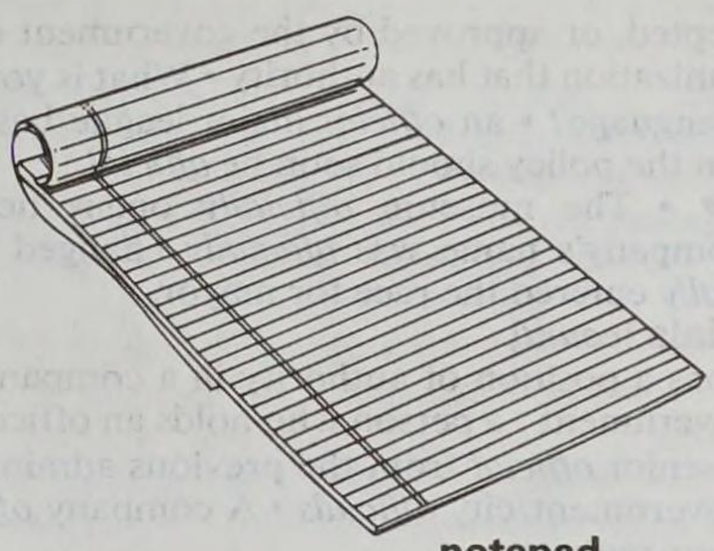
sticky note

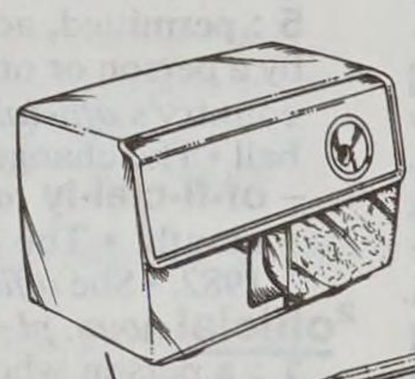

stapler

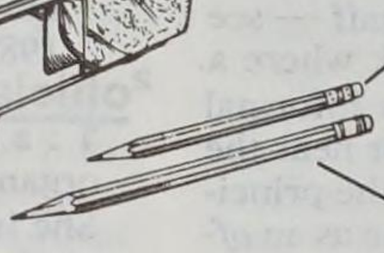

ballpoint pen

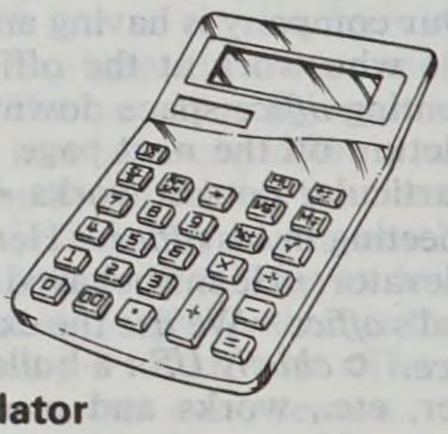

tape dispenser


markers, felt-tips


notepad


pencil sharpener


eraser (*chiefly US*), rubber (*Brit*)
pencil


calculator

0

– of·fi·cious·ly *adv* ▪ He *officiously* shouted orders at the workers.

off·ing /ˈɑːfɪŋ/ *noun*

in the offing : likely to happen soon ▪ A promotion might be *in the offing* for him. ▪ Some big changes are *in the offing*.

off–key /ˈɑːfˈkiː/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not in tune : above or below the proper pitch ▪ Some of the notes were slightly *off-key*.

– off–key *adv* ▪ He sang *off-key*.

off–kil·ter /ˈɑːfˈkɪltɚ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : not perfectly balanced or even ▪ The stairs are a little *off-kilter*.

2 : different from the ordinary, usual, or expected ▪ Her novels are full of *off-kilter* characters in odd situations.

off–licence *noun, pl* **-cences** [*count*] *Brit* : a store that sells alcoholic drinks

off–lim·its /ˈɑːfˈlɪməts/ *adj, not used before a noun*

1 — used to say that people are not allowed to enter a place or use something ▪ The basement and garage will be *off-limits* during the renovations. ▪ The historical documents have been placed *off-limits*. — often + *to* ▪ Certain areas in the museum are currently *off-limits to* visitors.

2 — used to say that people are not allowed to talk about something ▪ The subject of sex was *off-limits* in her family.

off–line /ˈɑːfˈlaɪn/ *adj*

1 : not connected to a computer, a computer network, or the Internet ▪ The system will be *off-line* for about an hour this afternoon. ▪ The printer is *off-line*.

2 : not done on a computer network or the Internet ▪ *off-line* activities/storage

– off–line *adv* ▪ I'm working *off-line* today because the network has been slow. — opposite ONLINE

off–load /ˌɑːfˈloʊd/ *verb* **-loads**; **-load·ed**; **-load·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to remove (something) from a truck, ship, etc. ▪ Workers *off-loaded* [=(more commonly) *unloaded*] the equipment from the trailer. ▪ I'll *off-load* the truck at the warehouse.

2 : to give away or sell (something unwanted) to someone : to get rid of (something) ▪ He *off-loaded* part of his baseball card collection. ▪ She tried to *off-load* some of her stock before prices fell.

off–peak /ˈɑːfˈpiːk/ *adj* : less busy or active than other times

: not peak ▪ What are the telephone rates during *off-peak* hours? ▪ They always vacation during *off-peak* periods.

off–put·ting /ˈɑːfˌpʊtɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not pleasing or likable : causing you to feel dislike of someone or something ▪ He has an *off-putting* [=*unfriendly*] manner. ▪ The restaurant's décor was strangely *off-putting*. ▪ The wording of the memo was very *off-putting*.
– **off–put·ting·ly** *adv* ▪ His manner is *off-puttingly* formal.

off–ramp /ˈɑːfˌræmp/ *noun, pl* **-ramps** [*count*] *US* : a short road that is used to gradually slow down after leaving a highway — called also (*Brit*) *slip road*; compare ON-RAMP

off–road /ˈɑːfˈroʊd/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : designed to be used on trails or dirt roads ▪ *Off-road* vehicles are prohibited on the beach.
2 : involving or used by off-road vehicles ▪ *off-road* racing/trails

off·screen /ˈɑːfˈskriːn/ *adv*
1 : not happening or present in the scene that is being shown on a television or movie screen ▪ In one scene you could see the shadow of someone *offscreen*. ▪ Strange sounds were heard *offscreen*.
2 *of an actor* : in private life ▪ *Offscreen*, she is nothing like the character she plays on TV.
– **off·screen** *adj* ▪ The characters had an *offscreen* argument. ▪ There were rumors of an *offscreen* romance between her and the leading man.

off–sea·son /ˈɑːfˌsiːzən/ *noun, pl* **-sons** [*count*]
1 : a period of time when travel to a particular place is less popular and prices are usually lower ▪ They always travel during the *off-season* to take advantage of low prices. ▪ *off-season* rates/travel
2 *sports* : a period of time when official games, tournaments, etc., are not being played ▪ During the *off-season*, he had surgery on his shoulder. ▪ He was brought to the team in an *off-season* trade.
– **off–season** *adv* ▪ They like to travel *off-season*.

off·set /ˈɑːfˌsɛt/ *verb* **-sets**; **-set**; **-set·ting** [+ *obj*] : to cancel or reduce the effect of (something) : to create an equal balance between two things ▪ Gains in one area *offset* losses in another. ▪ The limited storage space in the house is *offset* by the large garage.

off·shoot /ˈɑːfˌʃuːt/ *noun, pl* **-shoots** [*count*]
1 : something (such as a business) that develops from something larger ▪ The business started as an *offshoot* of an established fashion design company.
2 : a branch that grows on one of the main stems of a plant

off·shore /ˈɑːfˈʃoɚ/ *adj*
1 : moving away from the shore toward the water ▪ an *offshore* breeze
2 : located in the ocean away from the shore ▪ We sailed to an *offshore* island. ▪ He works on an *offshore* oil rig.
3 : located in a foreign country ▪ They opened an *offshore* bank account. ▪ He traced the money to an *offshore* investment company.
– **offshore** *adv* ▪ An oil company is drilling *offshore*. ▪ The ships are anchored about a mile *offshore*. ▪ A light breeze was blowing *offshore*.

off·side /ˈɑːfˈsaɪd/ *adj*
1 *sports* : in a position in a game (such as football or hockey) on the opponent's part of the field where you are not allowed to be : not onside ▪ The play was stopped because the center was *offside*.
2 *Brit* : on the right side : RIGHT-HAND ▪ the car's *offside* mirror/headlight — compare NEARSIDE
the offside *Brit* : the right-hand side ▪ The car was damaged on *the offside*.
– **offside** *adv*

off–site /ˈɑːfˈsaɪt/ *adv* : away from the place of a business or activity ▪ Printing of our dictionary is done *off-site*. — opposite ON-SITE
– **off–site** *adj* ▪ *Off-site* parking is available at the airport.

off–speed /ˈɑːfˈspiːd/ *adj, baseball, of a pitch* : slower than usual or expected ▪ He has trouble hitting *off-speed* pitches.

off·spring /ˈɑːfˌsprɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **offspring** [*count*]
1 : a person's child ▪ The disease can be transmitted from parent to *offspring*. ▪ The show is about two couples and the adventures of their rebellious *offspring*.
2 : the young of an animal or plant ▪ The colt is the *offspring* of two racing champions.

off·stage /ˈɑːfˈsteɪʤ/ *adv*
1 : on the part of the stage that the audience cannot see : behind or to the side of the stage ▪ She waited *offstage* for her cue. ▪ We heard a loud crash *offstage*. — compare BACKSTAGE, ONSTAGE
2 *of a performer* : in private life ▪ *Offstage*, the actress is very down-to-earth.
3 : in a place that is away from public view : behind the scenes ▪ Much of the important work of the conference was done *offstage*.
– **offstage** *adj* ▪ Their *offstage* relationship ended soon after the play closed.

off–street *adj, always used before a noun* : not on a public road ▪ *Off-street* parking is available for residents.

off–the–cuff *adj* : not prepared in advance : done without planning or preparation ▪ He made some *off-the-cuff* remarks during his presentation which drew laughter. — see also *off the cuff* at ¹CUFF

off–the–peg *adj, chiefly Brit* : OFF-THE-RACK

off–the–rack *adj, US* — used to describe clothes that you can buy in a store in different sizes that are not made to fit a particular person ▪ an *off-the-rack* suit — see also *off the rack* at ¹RACK

off–the–record *adj* — used to describe statements that are made to a reporter but that are not supposed to be included in a story, newspaper report, etc. ▪ The reporter used *off-the-record* comments in the story that should not have been made public. — see also *off the record* at ¹RECORD

off–the–shelf *adj* : available for sale from a store's supply of goods : not specially designed or custom-made ▪ They used mostly *off-the-shelf* stereo components for the media room. ▪ *off-the-shelf* software

off–the–wall *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : very unusual or strange ▪ She has an *off-the-wall* sense of humor. ▪ Some of his ideas are really *off-the-wall*.

off–white /ˈɑːfˈwaɪt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a yellowish or grayish white ▪ They painted the walls in *off-white*.
– **off–white** *adj* ▪ an *off-white* shirt

off year *noun, pl* ~ **years** [*count*]
1 : a year in which activity or production is lower than usual ▪ It has been an *off year* for auto sales.
2 *US, politics* : a year in which no major elections are held

oft /ˈɑːft/ *adv, literary* : OFTEN — often used in combination with a past participle ▪ an *oft*-repeated story ▪ an *oft*-quoted statement

of·ten /ˈɑːfən/ *adv* **of·ten·er**; **-est** [*or more* ~; *most* ~] : many times : on many occasions : FREQUENTLY ▪ They go out to dinner fairly *often*. ▪ How *often* do you call your mother? ▪ The condition *often* returns even after treatment with antibiotics. ▪ I *often* take a walk during my lunch break. ▪ He travels more *often* than I do. ▪ The disease is diagnosed most *often* in children. ▪ They seem to be getting into arguments more and more *often*. ▪ *Often*, she works late. ▪ It's not *often* that I get to enjoy a day off. ▪ Water the plants *often* enough to keep the soil moist. ▪ We hear from her ***every so often***. [=*occasionally, once in a while*] ▪ ***More often than not*** [=*typically, usually*], he forgets his hat. ▪ She arrived home from work late, ***as often as not***. [=very often] ▪ We see this problem ***all too often***. [=too commonly]

of·ten·times /ˈɑːfənˌtaɪmz/ *adv, US* : OFTEN ▪ *Oftentimes*, he is the only man in the aerobics class.

ogle /ˈoʊgəl/ *verb* **ogles**; **ogled**; **ogling** [+ *obj*]
1 *usually disapproving* : to look at (someone) in a way that shows sexual attraction ▪ He sat at the bar, *ogling* several women.
2 : to look at (something) in a way that suggests strong interest or desire ▪ He *ogled* the new cars on the lot. ▪ I was *ogling* the dessert menu before my meal even arrived.

ogre /ˈoʊgɚ/ *noun, pl* **ogres** [*count*]
1 : an ugly giant in children's stories that eats people
2 : someone or something that is very frightening, cruel, or difficult to deal with ▪ The book portrays their father as an *ogre* who mistreated them. ▪ the *ogre* of inflation

¹oh /ˈoʊ/ *interj*
1 — used to express surprise, happiness, disappointment, or sadness ▪ *Oh*, it's so windy out here! ▪ *Oh*, I'm so sorry to hear that. ▪ ***Oh no***! I forgot my purse.
2 — used in response to a physical sensation (such as pain) ▪ *Oh*, that hurt. ▪ *Oh*, that does taste good.
3 *also* ***O*** — used to address someone directly ▪ *Oh* sir, you forgot your change. ▪ *Oh*, waiter! We'd like the bill, please ▪ Bless us, *O* Lord.
4 — used for emphasis when responding to a question or statement or when making a statement ▪ "Have you ever been to Venice?" "*Oh*, yes. It's one of my favorite cities." ▪

O

"He's planning to change jobs." "*Oh*? Really?" ▪ *Oh* all right. If you insist. ▪ *Oh* for some time to relax and read a book! [=I wish I had some time to relax and read a book]

5 — used to show that something is understood ▪ "I'm going to the dentist now." "*Oh*, okay. I'll see you later." ▪ "But I won't be available on Monday." "*Oh*, I see. My mistake."

6 — used during a pause in speaking ▪ Their house is about, *oh*, I'd say four miles from here.

[2]oh /ˈoʊ/ *noun, pl* **ohs** [*count*] *US* — used to show the way the number 0 is often pronounced ▪ The number is three, *oh*, nine. [=309]

OH *abbr* Ohio

ohm /ˈoʊm/ *noun, pl* **ohms** [*count*] *technical* : a unit for measuring electrical resistance

oi /ˈɔɪ/ *interj, Brit, informal* — used to get the attention of someone or to express disapproval ▪ *Oi*, what are you doing with my car! ▪ *Oi*!—get away from there!

oik /ˈɔɪk/ *noun, pl* **oiks** [*count*] *Brit slang* : a person who is very rude or stupid

[1]oil /ˈɔjəl/ *noun, pl* **oils**

1 [*noncount*] **a** : a thick, black liquid that comes from the ground and that is used in making various products (such as gasoline) ▪ The price of crude *oil* is expected to rise. ▪ drilling for *oil* — often used before another noun ▪ *oil* prices/companies/wells/refineries ▪ the *oil* industry ▪ The world's *oil* supplies/reserves are diminishing. **b** : a type of oil that is used as a fuel to produce heat or light ▪ We heat our house with *oil*. ▪ heating *oil* ▪ an *oil* lamp **c** : a type of oil that makes the different parts in an engine, machine, etc., run smoothly ▪ I asked the mechanic to check the *oil*. [=to make sure that there was enough oil to make the car engine run smoothly] ▪ A little bit of *oil* will help lubricate the chain.

2 [*count, noncount*] : a liquid substance that comes from a plant or animal, that contains fat, and that is used in cooking ▪ Add a little *oil* to the pan and stir-fry the onions. ▪ The dressing is made with *oil*, vinegar, and a pinch of herbs. — see also CASTOR OIL, COCONUT OIL, COD-LIVER OIL, CORN OIL, ESSENTIAL OIL, LINSEED OIL, OLIVE OIL, PALM OIL

3 [*count, noncount*] : a smooth substance that is used on the skin, hair, or body to make it soft or healthy ▪ scented bath *oils*

4 a *oils* [*plural*] : oil paints ▪ He works mostly ***in oils*** [=he mostly uses oil paints] **b** [*count*] : an oil painting ▪ The exhibit includes *oils* and watercolors. ▪ an *oil* on canvas

a/the squeaky wheel gets the oil see [1]WHEEL

burn the midnight oil see [1]BURN

[2]oil *verb* **oils**; **oiled**; **oil•ing** [+ *obj*] : to put oil in or on (something) ▪ He *oiled* the bearings of the machine.

oil•can /ˈojəlˌkæn/ *noun, pl* **-cans** [*count*] : a can for holding oil; *especially* : a can with a long thin part through which oil comes out slowly

oil•cloth /ˈojəlˌklɑːθ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : cloth that is treated with oil so that it does not let water in and that is used especially to cover tables and shelves

oiled /ˈojəld/ *adj* : treated or covered with oil ▪ Place the vegetables in the *oiled* pan. ▪ *oiled* paper — see also WELL-OILED

oil field *noun, pl* ~ **fields** [*count*] : an area where there is a lot of oil and where special equipment has been set up to remove it from the ground

oil•man /ˈojəlmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a person (usually a man) who owns or works for an oil company

oil paint *noun, pl* ~ **paints** [*count, noncount*] : paint that contains oil

oil painting *noun, pl* ~ **-ings**

1 [*noncount*] : the art of painting with oil paints ▪ He studied *oil painting* in college.

2 [*count*] : a picture that is painted with oil paints ▪ A large *oil painting* hangs above the mantel.

no oil painting *Brit, informal* : not physically attractive ▪ His new girlfriend is *no oil painting*.

oil pan *noun, pl* ~ **pans** [*count*] *chiefly US* : the lower part of an engine that holds the oil — called also (*Brit*) *sump*

oil rig *noun, pl* ~ **rigs** [*count*] : a structure above an oil well on land or in the sea that has special equipment attached to it for drilling and removing oil from the ground — called also *oil platform*

oil•seed rape /ˈojəlˌsiːd-/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly Brit* : [3]RAPE

oil•skin /ˈojəlˌskɪn/ *noun, pl* **-skins**

1 [*noncount*] : cloth that is treated with oil so that it does not let water in and that is used to make clothing

2 [*count*] : a raincoat that is made of oilskin

3 *oilskins* [*plural*] : a coat and pants that are made of oilskin and that are worn to keep dry ▪ fishermen dressed in *oilskins*

oil slick *noun, pl* ~ **slicks** [*count*] : a thin layer of oil that is floating on the surface of the ocean, a lake, etc.

oil tanker *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a large ship that carries oil

oil well *noun, pl* ~ **wells** [*count*] : a hole that has been drilled into the ground through which oil can be removed

oily /ˈɔɪli/ *adj* **oil•i•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : having the smooth or greasy quality of oil ▪ The liquid has an *oily* feel.

2 a : covered or soaked with oil ▪ a pile of *oily* rags **b** : containing or producing a large amount of oil ▪ Her skin/hair is *oily*. ▪ an *oily* fish ▪ The salad dressing was very *oily*.

— **oil•i•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The skin cleanser helps reduce *oiliness*.

oink /ˈɔɪŋk/ *noun, pl* **oinks** [*count*] : the sound made by a hog or pig

— **oink** *verb* **oinks**; **oinked**; **oink•ing** [*no obj*] ▪ an *oinking* pig

oint•ment /ˈɔɪntmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count, noncount*] : a smooth substance that is rubbed on the skin to help heal a wound or to reduce pain or discomfort ▪ You should put some *ointment* on that cut.

fly in the ointment see [3]FLY

OJ *abbr, US* orange juice

[1]OK *or* **okay** /oʊˈkeɪ/ *adv, informal*

1 a — used to ask for or express agreement, approval, or understanding ▪ "I'm going to stay here, *OK*?" "Yes, that's fine." ▪ "Let's eat out tonight." "*OK*. Where do you want to go?" ▪ "Can we rent a video tonight?" "*OK*." ▪ "I'll be there in a minute, *okay*?" **b** — used for emphasis at the beginning of a statement ▪ *Okay* everybody, it's time to go now. ▪ "Hurry up!" "*Okay, okay*, I'm almost ready." ▪ *OK*, so I was wrong. I'm sorry.

2 : fairly well : well enough ▪ "How did you do at the interview?" "I think I did *okay*." ▪ He's doing *OK* in math.

[2]OK *or* **okay** *adj, informal*

1 : fairly good : not very good or very bad ▪ She's an *OK* [=*fair*] player. ▪ He's *okay* [=he is not bad] at math, but he really likes history. ▪ The movie was just *OK*.

2 : acceptable or agreeable ▪ Is it *OK* if I take tomorrow off? ▪ Is she *OK* with the schedule change? ▪ It's *okay* by me if you want to stay longer. ▪ Is my dress *OK*? ▪ It may be *OK* to do that sort of thing at home, but it isn't *OK* here.

3 *not used before a noun* **a** : not ill, hurt, unhappy, etc. ▪ "Are you feeling *OK*? [=*well*]" "Yes, I'm fine." **b** : not marked by problems, danger, etc. ▪ Don't worry. Everything will be *OK*. [=*all right*] ▪ "I'm so sorry that I'm late." "It's/That's *OK*. We still have plenty of time." ▪ "Are you *OK* for money?" "Yes, I have enough."

4 : likable, good, or honest ▪ He seems like an *okay* [=*decent*] guy.

[3]OK *or* **okay** *verb* **OK's** *or* **okays**; **OK'd** *or* **okayed**; **OK'ing** *or* **okay•ing** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to approve (something) : to say or decide that (something) will be allowed ▪ The boss needs to *OK* this before we place the order. ▪ Who *OK'd* your request?

[4]OK *or* **okay** *noun* [*singular*] *informal* : approval or permission ▪ We need her *OK* on this before we place the order. ▪ The boss gave his *okay*.

[5]OK *abbr* Oklahoma

okey•doke /ˌoʊkiˈdoʊk/ *or* **okey•do•key** /ˌoʊkiˈdoʊki/ *adv, informal*

1 — used to express agreement or approval ▪ "I'll be there in a minute." "*Okeydoke*."

2 — used for emphasis at the beginning of a statement ▪ "*Okeydoke* kids, it's time to clean up now."

okra /ˈoʊkrə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a tall plant whose pods are eaten as a vegetable and are used in soups and stews; *also* : the pods of this plant



okra

[1]old /ˈoʊld/ *adj* **old•er**; **-est**

1 a : having lived for many years : not young ▪ He's an *old* man now. ▪ a little *old* lady ▪ She was helping an *old* [=(more politely) *elderly*] woman cross the street. **b** — used to talk about or

ask about a person's age ▪ He looks *old* for his age. [=he looks older than he really is] ▪ She's *older* than she looks. [=she has a young appearance] ▪ He's dating an *older* woman. [=a woman who is older than he is] ▪ I wasn't *old* enough [=I was too young] to vote in the last election. ▪ "How *old* is your daughter?" "She's almost six." ▪ Their *oldest* [=*eldest*] child is 18 years *old*. ▪ My sister's three years *older* than me. ▪ She lived to the ***ripe old age*** of 85. ▪ He joked that he was ***as old as the hills***. [=very old] **c :** having a specified age ▪ He's 30 years *old*. ▪ a nine-month-*old* baby

2 a : having existed or been in use for a long time : not new ▪ We rented an *old* black-and-white movie. ▪ *old* newspapers/magazines ▪ a beautiful *old* house ▪ There's an *old* saying that good fences make good neighbors. ▪ an *old* family tradition ▪ a new approach to an *old* problem ▪ She wore a T-shirt and an *old* pair of jeans. ▪ I wish you would stop wearing that dirty *old* hat! ▪ The hotel was *old* and dingy. ▪ the *oldest* known civilization in the region **b :** having existed for a specified amount of time ▪ The house we live in is 50 years *old*. ▪ a 400-year-*old* castle

3 *always used before a noun* **a :** belonging to, used by, or known by someone in the past ▪ We went back to visit our *old* neighborhood. ▪ I met one of my *old* [=*former*] professors at the library. ▪ one of his *old* cars ▪ I made a lot less money at my *old* job. ▪ That's their *old* number. The new number is 555-4397. ▪ She is now just a shadow of her *old* self. [=she is not the person she was in the past] **b** — used to say that someone or something has been your friend, enemy, etc., for a long time ▪ I had lunch with an *old* friend of mine. [=a friend I have known for a very long time] ▪ They're *old* enemies. ▪ Spaghetti is an *old* favorite in our home.

4 *always used before a noun* : done or experienced many times ▪ Do we have to go through that *old* routine again? ▪ Grandpa tells the ***same old*** stories over and over again. ▪ When she brought up the *same old* argument, I just stopped listening.

5 *informal* — used for emphasis after adjectives like *big, good*, etc. ▪ We had a big *old* party in her honor. ▪ You poor *old* thing. You must be exhausted! ▪ ***Good old*** Joe. He's always helping people in need.

any old *informal* — used to describe someone or something that is not special or specific ▪ I don't care where I sleep. *Any old* couch will do. ▪ She won't drink *any old* tea; it has to be her favorite kind. ▪ You'll have to park *any old* way [=any way] you can. ▪ Give me beer over champagne ***any old day*** (of the week).

chip off the old block see ¹CHIP

for old times' sake see ¹SAKE

old boy/chap/man/etc. *Brit, old-fashioned* — used to address a man ▪ Don't worry, *old chap*, it'll be all right. — see also OLD BOY

– see also GOOD OLD BOY

synonyms OLD, ANCIENT, ANTIQUE, and ARCHAIC describe things that existed or were used in the past. OLD is the most common and general of these words and can refer to either the recent past or to the distant past. ▪ This is one of my *old* sweaters. ▪ The neighborhood has many *old* houses that were built more than 200 years ago. ANCIENT refers to things that happened or existed in the very distant past and that may or may not exist today. ▪ an *ancient* custom ▪ the *ancient* pyramids of Egypt ANTIQUE refers to things, such as toys, machines, and pieces of furniture, that have been kept from the past and that are often valuable. ▪ She collects *antique* furniture. ARCHAIC refers to things, such as words or ways of behaving, that belong to a much earlier time and that are no longer used. ▪ The play used *archaic* language to convey a sense of the past. ▪ an *archaic* tradition

²old *noun, pl* **olds**

1 [*count*] : a person who has a specified age — used in combination ▪ The game is suitable for six-year-*olds*. [=for children who are six years old] ▪ Their 11-month-*old* has just learned how to walk. ▪ 30-year-*olds*

2 *old* [*plural*] : old people ▪ Young and *old* alike will enjoy the movie. — often used with *the* ▪ *The old* [=(more commonly) *the elderly*] and the sick were helped first.

of old *formal + literary* : in the past : in a time that was long ago ▪ in (the) days *of old* ▪ (*Brit*) She's a friend who ***knows me of old***. [=has known me for a long time]

old age *noun* [*noncount*] : the fact of being old ▪ She died of *old age*. : the time of life when a person is old ▪ He's getting sweeter in his *old age*.

– **old-age** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ an *old-age* home ▪ (*Brit*) He is eligible to receive an *old-age* pension.

old boy *noun, pl* ~ **boys** [*count*]

1 *or* ***Old Boy*** *chiefly Brit* : a person who went to a respected or well-known private school for boys ▪ an *Old Boys'* reunion — compare OLD GIRL

2 *chiefly Brit, informal* : an old man ▪ The *old boy* had some trouble getting up the stairs.

old boy network *also* ***old boys' network*** *usually disapproving* : an informal system in which wealthy men with the same social and educational background help each other ▪ He got his job through the *old boy network*.

– see also GOOD OLD BOY

old country *noun*

the old country : the country where a person was born or lived before moving to a new country ▪ They left *the old country* more than 30 years ago. ▪ This music reminds me of *the old country*.

olde /ˈoʊld/ — used as a variant spelling of "old" in the names of places, in advertisements, etc. ▪ Ye *Olde* Pub ▪ merry *olde* England

old·en /ˈoʊldən/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to a time in the distant past ▪ What was life like in the *olden* days? ▪ stories of *olden* times

Old English *noun* [*noncount*] : the English language before 1100 ▪ *Old English* is very different from modern English. — called also *Anglo-Saxon*; compare MIDDLE ENGLISH

old–fash·ioned /ˈoʊldˈfæʃənd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : of or relating to the past: such as **a :** no longer used or accepted : replaced by something more recent ▪ an *old-fashioned* word ▪ His views on the role of women in society are terribly *old-fashioned*. ▪ Her clothes are so plain and *old-fashioned*. **b :** typical of the past in a pleasing or desirable way ▪ *old-fashioned* courtesy and good manners ▪ an *old-fashioned* love story ▪ I feel like listening to some good *old-fashioned* rock 'n' roll. ▪ She worked hard and became successful ***the old-fashioned way***.

2 *of a person* : using or preferring traditions or ideas from the past ▪ She was an *old-fashioned* girl from a small town. ▪ I'm rather *old-fashioned* when it comes to dating. — opposite MODERN

old girl *noun, pl* ~ **girls** [*count*] *chiefly Brit*

1 *or* ***Old Girl*** : a woman who went to a respected or well-known private school for girls ▪ an *Old Girls'* reunion — compare OLD BOY

2 *informal* : an old woman ▪ The *old girl* had some trouble getting up the stairs.

Old Glory *noun* [*noncount*] : the flag of the United States

old–growth *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to forests that have been growing for a long time ▪ *old-growth* forests ▪ *old-growth* trees ▪ *old-growth* timber

old guard *noun*

the old guard : the usually older members of an organization (such as a political party) who do not want or like change ▪ She's not popular with *the old guard*. ▪ (*US*) *The old guard* is stronger than ever. = (*Brit*) *The old guard* are stronger than ever.

old hand *noun, pl* ~ **hands** [*count*] : a person who has a lot of experience doing something ▪ He's an *old hand* at working on cars.

old hat *adj, not used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : seen or done many times and no longer interesting ▪ I suppose my favorite joke's a bit *old hat* by now. ▪ Making hit movies is *old hat* for/to him.

old·ie /ˈoʊldi/ *noun, pl* **-ies** [*count*] *informal* : someone or something that is not new ▪ This recipe's an *oldie* and a favorite in my family. ▪ an *oldie* but goodie ▪ (*Brit*) He's one of the *oldies* [=(*US*) *old-timers*] on the soccer team. — see also GOLDEN OLDIE

old lady *noun, pl* ~ **-dies** [*count*] *informal*

1 : someone's wife or girlfriend ▪ He cheated on his *old lady*.

2 : someone's mother ▪ My *old lady* says I have to be home by eight.

old–line /ˈoʊldˈlaɪn/ *adj, always used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *US*

1 a : having a good reputation because of the high quality of a service, product, etc., that has been provided for many years ▪ We made sure he used an *old-line* law firm. ▪ *old-line* wine producers **b :** powerful and important in a society for a long time ▪ *old-line* Virginia families

2 : supporting traditional policies or practices : not encouraging or liking change within an organization ▪ His more *old-*

O

line colleagues expressed their concern with the changes. ▪ an *old-line* Democrat

old maid *noun, pl* ~ **maids** [*count*] *old-fashioned + disapproving* : a woman who has never been married and who is no longer young ▪ In my generation, you were considered an *old maid* at 25.

old man *noun, pl* ~ **men** [*count*] *informal*
1 : someone's husband or boyfriend ▪ I've been with my *old man* for 12 years now.
2 : someone's father ▪ I used to work with your *old man*.

old master *or* **Old Master** *noun, pl* ~ **-ters** [*count*]
1 : a famous and highly skilled artist; *especially* : a famous painter of the 16th, 17th, or early 18th century ▪ He is now recognized as one of the *Old Masters* of the Dutch school.
2 : a work of art created by an Old Master ▪ their collection of *old masters*

old money *noun* [*noncount*] : people whose families have been rich for a long time ▪ He comes from *old money*.
– **old money** *adj* ▪ an *old money* family/neighborhood

Old Nick /ˈoʊldˈnɪk/ *noun, chiefly Brit, old-fashioned* — used as a name of the devil

old salt *noun, pl* ~ **salts** [*count*] *informal* : someone who has sailed for many years ▪ An *old salt* told me tales about life in the navy.

old–school *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal*
1 : typical of an earlier style or form ▪ I mostly listen to *old-school* rap and hip-hop. ▪ *old-school* comedians : based on a way of doing things that was common in the past ▪ *old-school* [=*traditional*] values ▪ *old-school* medicine
2 : using or supporting traditional practices ▪ We had an *old-school* coach who made us run two miles every day.

old school *noun*
the old school : the people who support traditional policies and practices ▪ a politician of *the old school*

old•ster /ˈoʊldstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sters** [*count*] *informal* : an old person ▪ active and lively *oldsters*

old–style *adj, always used before a noun* : typical of the past often in a pleasing way ▪ I love the *old-style* elegance of those black-and-white movies. ▪ *old-style* entertainment ▪ *old-style* politicians

Old Testament *noun*
the Old Testament : the first part of the Christian Bible that tells about the Jews, their history, and God's words to them in the time before Jesus Christ was born — compare NEW TESTAMENT

old–time /ˈoʊldˈtaɪm/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : of a kind or style that was typical of the past ▪ *old-time* songs ▪ an *old-time* movie star ▪ *old-time* religion ▪ *old-time* liberalism
2 *US* : having been something specified for a long time : LONGTIME ▪ They're *old-time* residents of the neighborhood. ▪ an *old-time* rivalry

old–tim•er /ˈoʊldˈtaɪmɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a person who has a lot of experience : someone who has been a member of a company or organization for a long time ▪ I've asked some of the *old-timers* to help train new workers.
2 *US* : an old person ▪ It's good for *old-timers* like me to have young people around. ▪ Only a few *old-timers* still speak the language. ▪ How are you feeling today, *old-timer*?

old–timey /ˈoʊldˈtaɪmi/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *US, informal* : of a kind or style that was popular in the past ▪ There's an *old-timey* feel to their music. ▪ *old-timey* folk music

old wives' tale *noun, pl* ~ **tales** [*count*] *disapproving* : a common belief about something that is not based on facts and that is usually false ▪ Frogs won't give you warts. That's just an *old wives' tale*. ▪ the *old wives' tale* about the full moon causing people to act crazy — compare SUPERSTITION

Old World *noun*
the Old World : Africa, Asia, and especially Europe ▪ The animal is found throughout *the Old World*. — compare NEW WORLD

old–world /ˈoʊldˈwɚld/ *adj, always used before a noun* : old-fashioned or traditional in a way that pleasantly reminds you of the past ▪ I like the restaurant's *old-world* elegance/charm.

ole /ˈoʊl/ — used to represent a very informal way of saying "old" ▪ a big *ole* tractor ▪ We had a fine *ole* time.

ole•an•der /ˈoʊliˌændɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ders** [*count, noncount*] : a bush with long, narrow leaves and white, pink, or yellow flowers

O level *noun, pl* **O levels** [*count*] *Brit* : a basic test in a particular subject taken by students in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland usually at the age of 18 — called also *Ordinary level*; compare A LEVEL, S LEVEL

ol•fac•to•ry /ɑlˈfæktəri/ *adj, technical* : of, relating to, or connected with the sense of smell ▪ an *olfactory* stimulus

ol•i•garch /ˈɑːləˌgɑɚk/ *noun, pl* **-garchs** [*count*] *somewhat formal* : a person who belongs to a small group of people who govern or control a country, business, etc.

oli•gar•chy /ˈɑːləˌgɑɚki/ *noun, pl* **-chies**
1 [*count*] **a** : a country, business, etc., that is controlled by a small group of people ▪ Their nation is an *oligarchy*. **b** : the people that control a country, business, etc. ▪ An *oligarchy* rules their nation.
2 [*noncount*] : government or control by a small group of people ▪ The corporation is ruled by *oligarchy*.

ol•ive /ˈɑːlɪv/ *noun, pl* **-ives**
1 [*count*] **a** : a small, egg-shaped black or green fruit that is used as food or for making oil ▪ a sauce made with chopped *olives* **b** : a tree on which olives grow — called also *olive tree*
2 [*noncount*] : a yellowish-green color ▪ Does the suit come in *olive*? — called also *olive green*; see color picture on page C2
– **olive** *adj* ▪ She has *olive* skin. [=her skin has a yellowish-green tone to it] ▪ He has an *olive* complexion.

olive branch *noun, pl* ~ **branch•es** [*count*] : something that is said or done to make peace or to show that you want peace : a symbol of peace ▪ The winner ***extended/offered an olive branch*** to his opponent by calling him a great player.

olive drab *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : a grayish-green color ▪ a shirt in *olive drab*; *also* : clothing of this color ▪ The soldiers were dressed in *olive drab*.

olive green *noun* [*noncount*] : OLIVE 2

olive oil *noun, pl* ~ **oils** [*count, noncount*] : a yellow to yellowish-green oil that is made from olives and used in cooking ▪ a teaspoon of *olive oil*

olive tree *noun, pl* ~ **trees** [*count*] : OLIVE 1b

Olym•pi•ad /əˈlɪmpiˌæd/ *noun, pl* **-ads** [*count*] : an occasion when the modern Olympics are held ▪ the games of the 24th *Olympiad*

[1]Olym•pi•an /əˈlɪmpijən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*] : an athlete who competes in the Olympics ▪ modern *Olympians*

[2]Olympian *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : like that of a god : very impressive, powerful, etc. ▪ the *Olympian* heights of his disdain ▪ an *Olympian* effort

Olym•pic /əˈlɪmpɪk/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to the Olympics ▪ the U.S. *Olympic* team ▪ She won an *Olympic* medal in diving. ▪ an *Olympic* athlete

Olym•pics /əˈlɪmpɪks/ *noun*
the Olympics : a series of international athletic contests held in a different country once every four years — called also (*formal*) *the Olympic Games*

om•buds•man /ˈɑːmˌbʊdzmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a person (such as a government official or an employee) who investigates complaints and tries to deal with problems fairly ▪ The insurance company's *ombudsman* was able to resolve the problem. ▪ The town's *ombudsman* said he would look into charges of corruption.

ome•ga /oʊˈmeɪgə, *Brit* ˈəʊmɪgə/ *noun, pl* **-gas** [*count*] : the 24th and last letter of the Greek alphabet — Ω or ω; see also ALPHA AND OMEGA

omega–3 /oʊˈmeɪgəˈθriː, *Brit* ˈəʊmɪgəˈθriː/ *noun, pl* **omega–3s** [*count, noncount*] : a type of fat that is good for your heart and is found in fish, green leafy vegetables, and some nuts — called also *omega-3 fatty acid*

om•e•let *or* **om•e•lette** /ˈɑːmlət/ *noun, pl* **-lets** *or* **-lettes** [*count*] : a dish made from eggs that are mixed together, cooked without stirring, and served folded in half often with a filling of cheese, vegetables, or meat

omen /ˈoʊmən/ *noun, pl* **omens** [*count*] : something that is believed to be a sign or warning of something that will happen in the future ▪ a bad *omen* ▪ They regarded the win as a good *omen* for the team. ▪ *omens* of things to come

om•i•nous /ˈɑːmənəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : suggesting that something bad is going to happen in the future ▪ *ominous* clouds ▪ an *ominous* threat of war ▪ He spoke in *ominous* tones.
– **om•i•nous•ly** *adv* ▪ A threat of war loomed *ominously*. ▪ The sky was *ominously* dark.

omis•sion /oʊˈmɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-sions**
1 [*count*] : something that has not been included or done

O

: something that has been omitted ▪ There are a few *omissions* in the list/book.
2 [*noncount*] **a** : the act of not including or doing something — often + *of* ▪ I believe that the *omission of* my name was intentional. **b** : the state of being not included in something — often + *from* ▪ I am surprised by her *omission from* the team.

omit /oʊ'mɪt/ *verb* **omits**; **omit·ted**; **omit·ting** [+ *obj*]
1 : to leave out (someone or something) : to not include (someone or something) ▪ Please don't *omit* any details. — often + *from* ▪ They *omitted* your name *from* the list. ▪ You can *omit* the salt *from* the recipe. ▪ He has been *omitted from* the pool of candidates.
2 *formal* : to fail to do (something) — followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ I *omitted* [=(more commonly) *neglected*] *to mention* that it was my fault. ▪ They *omitted to tell* us the directions.

omni- *combining form* : all : in all ways, places, etc. : without limits ▪ *omni*potent ▪ *omni*present

[1]om·ni·bus /'ɑ:mnɪbəs/ *noun, pl* **-bus·es** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : [1]BUS

[2]omnibus *adj, always used before a noun, US* : of, relating to, or including many things ▪ an *omnibus* edition of his more popular stories ▪ an *omnibus* legislative bill

om·nip·o·tent /ɑm'nɪpətənt/ *adj, formal* : having complete or unlimited power : ALL-POWERFUL ▪ *omnipotent* gods ▪ an *omnipotent* ruler/state
– **om·nip·o·tence** /ɑm'nɪpətəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ divine *omnipotence* ▪ the *omnipotence* of God

om·ni·pres·ent /ˌɑ:mnɪ'prɛzn̩t/ *adj, formal* : present in all places at all times ▪ The problem is *omnipresent* and unavoidable.
– **om·ni·pres·ence** /ˌɑ:mnɪ'prɛzn̩s/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *omnipresence* of poverty

om·ni·scient /ɑm'nɪʃənt/ *adj, formal* : knowing everything : having unlimited understanding or knowledge ▪ an *omniscient* deity ▪ The novel has an *omniscient* narrator. [=a narrator who knows what all the characters are doing and thinking]
– **om·ni·science** /ɑm'nɪʃəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the belief in divine *omniscience*

om·ni·vore /'ɑ:mnɪˌvoɚ/ *noun, pl* **-vores** [*count*] *technical* : an animal that eats both plants and other animals — sometimes used to refer to people ▪ I'm an *omnivore*—I'll eat anything.

om·niv·o·rous /ɑm'nɪvərəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : eating both plants and animals ▪ *omnivorous* animals
2 : eager to learn about many different things ▪ She is an *omnivorous* reader. ▪ a child with *omnivorous* curiosity

[1]on /'ɑ:n/ *prep*
1 a : touching and being supported by the top surface of (something) ▪ The book is (lying) *on* the table. ▪ There is a lot of frosting *on* the cake. **b** : to a position that is supported by (something) ▪ You can get *on* [=*onto*] the horse as soon as we've put the saddle *on* it. ▪ I climbed out *on* [=*onto*] the roof. **c** — used to indicate the part or object by which someone or something is supported ▪ How long can you stand *on* one foot? ▪ He stood *on* the stool. ▪ He was *on* his hands and knees looking for her earring.
2 — used to say that something is attached to something ▪ He hung the painting *on* the wall. ▪ Apples hung *on* the branches.
3 — used to indicate where someone or something is hit or touched ▪ I bumped my head *on* a low branch. ▪ He slapped me *on* the hand. ▪ She kissed him *on* the cheek.
4 a — used to indicate the surface or part where something is seen or located ▪ There are marks *on* the wall. ▪ I have a cut *on* my finger. **b** — used to say that something (such as jewelry) is being worn by someone ▪ the ring *on* her finger
5 : near or close to (something or someone) ▪ a village *on* [=*by*] the sea
6 — used to indicate the location or position of something or someone ▪ Our house is *on* the left. ▪ There is a garden *on* the side of the house. ▪ We saw cows and chickens *on* the farm. ▪ He lives *on* Main Street. ▪ *on* page 102 in/of the book ▪ Which side is it *on*?
7 — used to indicate the time when something happened or will happen ▪ We met *on* July 24th. ▪ *On* my way home [=while I was going home], I saw a car accident. ▪ (*formal*) *On* the morning of July 24th, the suspect left his house at 8:15 a.m. ▪ I would like the report ***on or before*** July 24th. ▪ The TV station gives news ***every hour on the hour***. [=at 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, etc.] ▪ The project was finished ***on schedule/time***. [=when it was supposed to be finished]
8 : immediately after (something) ▪ What was your first reaction *on* hearing the news? [=when you heard the news] ▪ You'll be required to pay *on* delivery of the package. [=when the package is delivered]
9 — used to indicate the subject of something ▪ a book *on* [=*about*] North American birds ▪ a discussion *on* current events ▪ Let's reflect *on* [=*upon*] the poem for a moment. ▪ a test *on* parts of speech
10 a — used to indicate the device or instrument that is used to do something ▪ He played a couple songs *on* the piano. ▪ He cut his foot *on* a piece of broken glass. **b** — used to say that someone is using a telephone, computer, etc. ▪ They talked *on* the phone for hours. ▪ She was *on* the phone when I went to her office. ▪ He has been *on* the computer all night. **c** — used to describe the device, system, etc., that is used for seeing something, hearing something, etc. ▪ It's the best show *on* television. ▪ I heard that song *on* the radio. ▪ the display *on* the computer screen ▪ a Web site *on* the Internet ▪ I have the movie *on* DVD.
11 — used to indicate a source of something (such as money, food, information, or energy) ▪ She lives *on* a small salary. ▪ The family lives *on* welfare. ▪ They make their living *on* [=*off*] tourism. ▪ They profited *on* [=*from*] the sale of the house. ▪ The animal feeds *on* insects. ▪ I lived *on* cereal [=I ate a lot of cereal regularly] in my college years. ▪ The machine runs *on* diesel fuel. ▪ The story is based *on* fact.
12 — used to indicate the vehicle or animal by which someone or something is moved from one place to another ▪ I sometimes go to work *on* a bus. [=I sometimes take a bus to get to work] ▪ Have you ever ridden *on* a horse?
13 — used to say that you have something in your possession at a particular time ▪ I only have $10 *on* me. ▪ He had a knife *on* him.
14 — used to indicate the state of something ▪ The house is *on* fire! ▪ House sales are ***on the rise***. [=are rising] ▪ All shoes are ***on sale***.
15 — used to indicate an activity that someone did or is now doing ▪ She did well *on* the exam/test. ▪ The band is currently *on* tour. ▪ He is off/away *on* a trip/vacation. ▪ She is *on* a diet. ▪ The officers are *on* duty.
16 — used to indicate something (such as a medicine or drug) that a person or animal is using ▪ He used to be *on* drugs, but he's off them now. ▪ (*informal*) What (drugs) is she *on*? ▪ They put the dog *on* antibiotics.
17 — used to indicate the person or thing that is responsible for something ▪ The drinks are *on* me. [=I will pay for the drinks] ▪ They blamed it *on* me. [=they said it was my fault]
18 a — used to indicate the person or thing that something is directed toward ▪ The deadline was creeping up *on* us. [=the deadline was getting closer] ▪ an attack *on* religion ▪ He is working *on* [=*at*] his skiing. ▪ They are still working *on* the problem. ▪ They made a down payment *on* the house. ▪ He pulled a gun *on* me. ▪ He turned his back *on* her and walked away. ▪ a ban *on* smoking ▪ Her eyes were *on* the road. [=she was watching the road] **b** — used to say that someone has been affected by something ▪ The crops died *on* them. ▪ Her husband walked out *on* her.
19 — used after an adjective to indicate the thing that a statement relates to ▪ I am short *on* cash. [=I don't have much cash] ▪ Opinions are divided *on* this issue. ▪ (*Brit*) Sales are up *on* last year's but down *on* those of previous years.
20 : as stated or shown by (someone or something) ▪ I have it *on* good authority [=a trustworthy person has told me] that the company will be relocating. ▪ (*Brit*) *On* [=*according to*] these estimates, we'll be out of debt soon.
21 — used to indicate that someone or something is included as part of a team, list, etc. ▪ She served *on* the jury/committee/board. ▪ He is *on* the team. ▪ That dish is no longer *on* the menu. ▪ His name was *on* the list.
22 — used to say that someone or something has an advantage ▪ She has three inches in height *on* me. [=she is three inches taller than I am] ▪ The team has a 3-game lead *on* last year's champions. ▪ She is very talented but ***has nothing on*** [=has no advantage over] her brother who is an even better singer.
23 *chiefly US* — used to say that someone is playing or performing well ▪ He is *on* his game. [=he is playing very well]

on about *Brit, informal + disapproving* : talking about ▪ I haven't a clue what you're *on about*! ▪ She is always *on about* the importance of exercise.

on at *Brit, informal* **1** : asking (someone) for something repeatedly and in a way that is annoying ▪ She is always *on at*

him for money. **2 :** asking or telling (someone) to do something repeatedly and in a way that is annoying ▪ Mummy's always *on at* me about cleaning up my room!

on it **:** actively dealing with a problem, job, etc. ▪ "We need to get this paperwork done." "Don't worry; ***I'm on it.***" [=I am taking care of it]

²on *adv*

1 a — used to indicate that something is attached to, covering, or supported by something else ▪ Put the lid *on*. ▪ I'll steady the horse while you get *on*. ▪ She put *on* her glasses to read the letter. ▪ Keep the tablecloth *on*. **b** — used to describe something that is being worn by someone ▪ He put *on* his coat and went outside. ▪ You can keep your shoes *on*. ▪ What did he have *on*? [=what was he wearing?] ▪ He had *on* a black shirt and jeans.

2 — used to indicate movement forward ▪ The car stopped and then drove *on*. ▪ We traveled *on* to the next town. ▪ The boys went *on* home.

3 a — used to indicate that an activity, event, or condition continues ▪ The argument went *on* for weeks. ▪ He worked *on* without a break. ▪ Please read *on* for information about our products. ▪ The teams played *on* in the snow. ▪ She rambled *on* (and *on*) about her lazy husband. ▪ ***From now on*** [=from this point in time forward], be sure to double-check your answers. ▪ ***From here on (out)***, things should get easier. = ***From this point on***, things should get easier. **b :** in an advanced state ▪ We're far/well *on* with/in our project. **c :** at a more advanced time **:** at a later time ▪ I'll come by to help you later *on*.

4 : from one person or thing to another ▪ Pass the word/note *on*. ▪ The tradition has been passed/handed *on* [=*down*] through the years. ▪ Let's move/go *on* to the next point.

5 a — used to indicate that something is operating, flowing, etc. ▪ He switched the light *on* to read. ▪ The lights came *on*. ▪ Turn the water/TV *on*. **b** — used to indicate that something is being heated, prepared, etc. ▪ I'll put the kettle/tea/coffee *on* (to boil). [=I will put the kettle/tea/coffee on the stove to make it warmer] ▪ I've got coffee *on*, if you're interested.

6 : in or into a train, bus, etc. ▪ She got *on* at the last station.

on and off see ¹OFF

³on *adj*

1 *not used before a noun* **:** attached to or covering something ▪ The lid is *on* tight.

2 *not used before a noun* **:** performing or speaking in public ▪ The band will be *on* in 10 minutes. ▪ Mr. President, you are *on* in two minutes. [=you will be giving your speech in two minutes]

3 *not used before a noun* **:** working at a job ▪ He is *on* tomorrow from 6 a.m to 6 p.m.

4 a *not used before a noun* **:** operating or flowing ▪ The radio/water/electricity is *on*. **b :** in a position that starts the flow of electricity, water, etc. ▪ The switch is *on*. ▪ The lever is in the *on* position.

5 *not used before a noun* **a :** taking place or happening ▪ The deal/game is *on*. ▪ (*Brit*) We do not have anything *on* [=*planned*] this weekend. **b :** doing something as planned ▪ Are we still *on* for dinner tomorrow? [=are we still having dinner tomorrow, as we planned to do?]

6 *not used before a noun* **:** being broadcast on television or radio ▪ The show is *on* at 8 p.m. ▪ The game is *on* tonight. ▪ My favorite show is *on*.

7 *not used before a noun, chiefly US* — used to say that you are able to do something well at a particular time ▪ My golf game was off yesterday, but it/I was *on* today. [=I played well today]

not on *Brit, informal* **1 :** not acceptable or proper ▪ Cheating old ladies out of their savings just ***isn't on***. [=is not acceptable] **2 :** not possible ▪ I'm afraid that scheme's just *not on*.

you're on *informal* — used to say that you accept a bet or challenge ▪ "I bet I can run faster than you can." "OK, *you're on*."

on–again, off–again *adj, chiefly US* **:** happening or existing at some times and not at other times ▪ *on-again, off-again* fads ▪ She has been his *on-again, off-again* girlfriend for the past several years. [=she has been his girlfriend at certain times and not been his girlfriend at other times during the past several years]

on–air *adj* **:** appearing, used, or done on a radio or television broadcast ▪ an *on-air* telephone call ▪ our live, *on-air* fundraiser

on•board /ˈɑːnˈboəd/ *adj, always used before a noun* **:** carried or happening on a vehicle ▪ The car comes with an *onboard* computer. ▪ *onboard* electronics/systems

¹once /ˈwʌns/ *adv*

1 : one time only ▪ I will repeat the question *once*. ▪ We try to get together (at least) *once* every month. ▪ The play was performed ***only once***. ▪ He had ridden a horse *only once* (before). ▪ We go to the movies ***once or twice*** a month. [=we go to the movies a few times a month] ▪ I've only seen her *once or twice*. [=I have only seen her a few times]

2 : at any one time **:** EVER ▪ She didn't *once* thank me. ▪ He didn't look at me *once*.

3 : at some time in the past ▪ It was *once* done that way. ▪ A river *once* flowed through this canyon. ▪ It was *once* a booming mining town. ▪ Their music was *once* very popular. — sometimes used in combination ▪ a *once*-successful actor ▪ a *once*-popular restaurant

once again/more **:** for another time **:** one more time **:** AGAIN ▪ Let me explain the problem *once again*. ▪ *Once again*, you've ignored my instructions. ▪ Could I hear the question *once more*?

once and for all **:** now and for the last time ▪ Let's settle this problem *once and for all*. ▪ Winning its fourth straight championship game, the team proved *once and for all* that they are the best. ▪ I'm asking you *once and for all*. ▪ Please, *once and for all*, stop worrying.

once bitten, twice shy see ¹BITE

once in a blue moon see BLUE MOON

once in a while **:** sometimes but not often **:** OCCASIONALLY ▪ We spend most of our time at home and go out *once in a while*. ▪ ***Every once in a while***, we have wine with dinner.

once upon a time **:** at some time in the past ▪ He was a famous actor *once upon a time*. ✧ *Once upon a time* is the traditional way to begin a fairy tale. ▪ *Once upon a time*, there was a beautiful princess named Snow White.

²once *noun* [*noncount*] **:** one single time ▪ I have tried Indian food more than *once*. ▪ Please be on time ***just this once***. ▪ ***For once*** you seem to know what I'm talking about.

at once **1 :** at the same time ▪ two people talking *at once* ▪ The book is *at once* [=*both*] funny and sad. ▪ She had several projects going on ***all at once***. **2 :** right away **:** without delay **:** IMMEDIATELY ▪ We need to leave *at once*. ▪ You can call the office and get advice *at once*.

³once *conj* **:** at the moment when **:** as soon as ▪ Things got better *once* he found a job. = *Once* he found a job, things got better. ▪ *Once* she spoke, I recognized her.

once–over /ˌwʌnsˈoʊvə/ *noun* [*singular*] **:** a quick look or examination ▪ The paper got a *once-over* before he turned it in. ▪ I saw him ***giving me a/the once-over***. [=I saw him looking at me]

on•col•o•gy /ɑnˈkɑːlədʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* **:** the study and treatment of cancer and tumors
– on•col•o•gist /ɑnˈkɑːlədʒɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*] ▪ He is studying to be an *oncologist*.

on•com•ing /ˈɑːnˌkʌmɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* **:** coming closer to you **:** coming toward you ▪ an *oncoming* car ▪ the *oncoming* traffic

on–demand *adj, always used before a noun* **:** available when needed or wanted ▪ My cable company offers *on-demand* service/movies. — see also *on demand* at ¹DEMAND

¹one /ˈwʌn/ *noun, pl* **ones**

1 [*count*] **:** the number 1 ▪ *one*, two, three, four, . . .

2 [*count*] *US* **:** a one-dollar bill ▪ I don't have any *ones*. Can you break a five?

3 [*noncount*] **:** one o'clock ▪ I'll be there at *one*.

4 [*count*] **:** the first in a set or series ▪ On day *one* of his diet, he cut out sweets. ▪ She wears a size *one*.

as one *formal* **1 :** at the same time **:** all together ▪ They rose *as one* and cheered her. **2 :** in agreement with each other ▪ We are *as one* on this issue.

at one with **1 :** in a peaceful state as a part of something else ▪ I feel *at one with* nature. [=I feel very closely connected to nature] **2** *formal* **:** in a state of agreement with another person ▪ I am *at one with* you on this issue.

for one **:** as an example ▪ I, *for one*, disagree. [=I disagree] ▪ There were many spelling mistakes in the essay. "There" for "their," *for one*.

in one **:** combined in a single thing ▪ a dictionary and thesaurus ***(all) in one*** ▪ a DVD and VCR player *in one*

the odd one out see ¹ODD

²one *pronoun*

1 : that person or thing ▪ "I'll have an iced tea, please." "I'll

have *one*, too." ▪ Their dog died, but they plan to get another *one*. ▪ "You should wear the blue *one*." "The *one* with the stripes?" "No, the other *one*." ▪ I'd like to see the ring next to that *one*. ▪ Which *one* did you like better? ▪ He is the *one* who called the police. ▪ Have you heard ***the one about*** [=the joke about] the priest and the rabbi? ▪ That's one possible answer—but not the ***only one***. ▪ He had ***one too many*** at the bar last night. [=he had too many alcoholic drinks at the bar]

✧ This sense of *one* can be used in the plural form ***ones***. ▪ The *ones* on the team who are most successful practice every day. ▪ Those batteries are the *ones* that still work.

2 : someone or something that is a part of a particular group — + *of* ▪ I met *one of* your friends at the party. ▪ She is *one of* the best players on the team. ▪ *One of* the puppies has a brown patch around its eye. ▪ He'll come back ***one of these days***. [=*someday*] ▪ Don't worry—he's ***one of us***. [=he is part of our group and can be trusted]

3 a *somewhat formal* **:** people in general **:** any person ▪ *One* never knows [=(more commonly) you never know] what the weather will be. ▪ It is now possible to buy just about anything from the privacy of *one's* [=(more commonly) *your*] own home. **b** *Brit, old-fashioned* **:** I or we ▪ I would like to read more, but *one* doesn't have the time.

one after another see ²ANOTHER

one and all *old-fashioned* **:** EVERYONE ▪ Merry Christmas to *one and all*.

one by one **:** separately in a series ▪ The performers took the stage *one by one*.

one in a million see MILLION

there's one born every minute see BORN

– see also NO ONE

³one *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* **:** having the value of 1 ▪ There is *one* minute left in the game. ▪ I have a few *one*-dollar bills in my purse. ▪ She is *one* year old.

2 *always used before a noun* — used to refer to a single person or thing ▪ There is *one* cookie left. ▪ Let's take it *one* day at a time. [=let's not think or plan too far ahead] ▪ My *one* [=*only, sole*] concern is for your safety. ▪ We need to keep all the tools in *one* [=the same] place. ▪ He was the *one* (and only) person she wanted to marry. ▪ He caught the ball *one*-handed. ▪ a *one*-parent [=single-parent] family ▪ There is ***only/just one*** more thing to do. ▪ I could not solve ***one or two*** [=*a few*] problems on the test. ▪ ***Not one*** person knew the answer. [=no one knew the answer]

3 a — used before a noun to indicate that someone or something is part of a group of similar people or things ▪ She is *one* singer who I would like to see in concert. ▪ early *one* morning ▪ The Grand Canyon is *one* place I'd like to visit. ▪ That's *one* possible solution. ▪ I don't like being around him. ***For one thing***, he smokes. ▪ The ***one thing*** I hate most is being lied to. ▪ ***It's one thing*** to understand the problem, but another thing to actually fix it. **b** *chiefly US, informal* — used to emphasize a description ▪ She is *one* tough lady. [=she's a tough lady] ▪ That is *one* ugly dog. ▪ That was *one* great party.

4 *always used before a noun* **:** not known exactly **:** SOME ▪ I'll see you again *one* day soon. ▪ He'll come back *one* day. ▪ At *one* time or another/other, the building was a school.

5 — used to indicate that two or more people or things are actually the same person or are the same kind of thing ▪ The writer and her main character are *one*. ▪ "Puma" and "cougar" are different names for *one* animal. ▪ The writer and her main character are ***one and the same***.

6 *formal* — used before a name to indicate that you do not know the person specified ▪ *One* Ms. Jones called this morning. [=a woman named Ms. Jones called this morning]

7 *not used before a noun* **:** in agreement with each other ▪ You and I are *one* on this issue.

the one and only — used before the name of a famous person to say that there is no one else like that person ▪ *the one and only* Elvis Presley

one another *pronoun* **:** each of two or more people, animals, etc., who are doing something together or in relationship to the other or others in the group ▪ We shared our thoughts with *one another*. [=*each other*]

one–armed bandit /ˈwʌnˈɑɚmd-/ *noun, pl* ~ **-dits** [*count*] *informal* **:** SLOT MACHINE

one–dimensional *adj, disapproving* **:** simple and uninteresting ▪ The novel's characters were *one-dimensional*.

one–hand•ed /ˈwʌnˈhændəd/ *adj* **:** done using only one hand ▪ a *one-handed* catch

– **one–handed** *adv* ▪ She caught the ball *one-handed*.

one–hit wonder *noun, pl* ~ **-ders** [*count*] **:** a performer, group, etc., that is popular or successful only once for a brief time ▪ She was a *one-hit wonder*. [=she had only one hit song, movie, etc.]

one–horse /ˈwʌnˈhoɚs/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 *informal* **:** small and dull ▪ He grew up in a little ***one-horse town***.

2 : pulled by one horse ▪ a *one-horse* wagon/buggy

one–lin•er /ˌwʌnˈlaɪnə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] **:** a very short joke or funny remark

one–man *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : done, performed, or controlled by one person ▪ a *one-man* job/show/play/business ▪ This is strictly a *one-man* operation.

2 : designed for one person ▪ a *one-man* kayak/tent

one–man band *noun, pl* ~ **bands** [*count*]

1 : a musician who plays several instruments at the same time

2 : a person who is responsible for or does several tasks alone ▪ Our receptionist is a *one-man band*.

one•ness /ˈwʌnnəs/ *noun* [*singular*] **:** the state of being completely united with or a part of someone or something — usually + *with* ▪ I felt a sense of *oneness with* nature. ▪ a feeling of spiritual *oneness with* others

one–night stand *noun, pl* ~ **stands** [*count*]

1 : a situation in which you have sex with someone once and you do not continue in a relationship afterwards ▪ I really hope this wasn't just a *one-night stand*; *also* **:** one of the people involved in this situation ▪ She was a *one-night stand*. I haven't seen her since.

2 : a performance of a play, concert, etc., that is given only once in a particular place

one–note /ˈwʌnˈnoʊt/ *adj, always used before a noun* **:** boring because it does not change ▪ Critics disliked his *one-note* performance as the movie's villain.

one–off /ˌwʌnˈɑːf/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly Brit* **:** done or happening only once ▪ *one-off* gigs/events ▪ a *one-off* cost/payment

– **one–off** *noun, pl* **-offs** [*count*] ▪ The event is a *one-off*.

one–on–one /ˌwʌnɑnˈwʌn/ *adj* **:** involving two people who are dealing with or competing against each other directly ▪ a *one-on-one* meeting/discussion ▪ a *one-on-one* defense/competition ▪ *one-on-one* tutoring

– **one–on–one** *adv* ▪ I'd like to talk with you *one-on-one*. ▪ They will compete *one-on-one* for the championship.

one–piece *adj, always used before a noun* **:** consisting of a single piece ▪ a *one-piece* bathing suit

– **one–piece** *noun, pl* **-pieces** [*count*] ▪ She prefers *one-pieces* to bikinis.

oner•ous /ˈɑːnərəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* **:** difficult and unpleasant to do or deal with ▪ an *onerous* chore/duty/task ▪ The government imposed *onerous* taxes on imports.

one•self /ˌwʌnˈsɛlf/ *pronoun, formal*

1 — used as the object of a verb or preposition when *one* is the stated subject or is understood to be the subject ▪ One can easily teach *oneself* how to sew. ▪ It is not wrong to congratulate *oneself*. ▪ when one discovers how different others are from *oneself* ▪ One usually associates with people of the same age as *oneself*. ▪ It is important to have good feelings about *oneself*.

2 — used for emphasis to refer again to the subject when *one* is the subject ▪ If one does not have the information *oneself*, one can ask others.

one–shot /ˈwʌnˌʃɑːt/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US, informal* **:** done or happening only once ▪ a *one-shot* tax cut ▪ a *one-shot* offer/deal

– **one–shot** *noun, pl* **-shots** [*count*] ▪ These tax cuts are strictly *one-shots*.

one–sid•ed /ˈwʌnˈsaɪdəd/ *adj*

1 *disapproving* **:** showing only one opinion or point of view ▪ Their interpretation of the study's results seems *one-sided*. ▪ His book presents a somewhat *one-sided* [=*biased*] view of the issue.

2 : led or controlled by one of the two people or groups involved ▪ Our conversation was very *one-sided*: Mom talked, and I listened. ▪ The game has been *one-sided* so far with the home team winning six to nothing.

– **one–sid•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The *one-sidedness* of the game made it very boring.

one–stop /ˈwʌnˈstɑːp/ *adj, always used before a noun* **:** providing or offering many different types of goods or services

at one location ▪ a *one-stop* shop for office furniture and supplies ▪ *one-stop* shopping

one•time /ˈwʌnˈtaɪm/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : having been someone or something specified in the past : FORMER ▪ a *onetime* actor now turned singer
2 : done or happening only once ▪ a *onetime* offer/deal

one–to–one /ˌwʌntəˈwʌn/ *adj*
1 : involving two people who are dealing with each other directly ▪ We had a *one-to-one* meeting.
2 *formal* : perfectly matching one thing in a group to another thing in another group ▪ There was a *one-to-one* correspondence between the number of times the bell rang and the number of times the dog barked.
– **one–to–one** *adv* ▪ a mentor who advises *one-to-one* and in groups

one–track *adj, always used before a noun* : continuously thinking about only one particular subject ▪ You've got ***a one-track mind***

one–trick pony *noun, pl* ~ **ponies** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal*
1 : someone or something that is skilled in only one area ▪ As a knitter, I'm a *one-trick pony*: I can only knit scarves.
2 : someone or something that has success only once ▪ a musician who was a *one-trick pony* and then faded away

one–two /ˈwʌnˈtu:/ *noun* [*singular*] : a combination of two quick punches in boxing ▪ He knocked him out with the old *one-two* (punch/combo). — often used figuratively to describe two bad things that happen very close together or at the same time ▪ Yesterday's earthquakes dealt the city a ***one-two punch***

one up *adj, not used before a noun, informal* : having an advantage over someone : in a position that is better than someone else's position — usually + *on* ▪ He's a good artist, which puts him *one up on* most of his classmates. ▪ You're *one up on* me.

one–up /ˌwʌnˈʌp/ *verb* **-ups**; **-upped**; **-up•ping** [+ *obj*] *US, informal* : to get an advantage over (someone) ▪ They're always trying to *one-up* each other by buying the latest gadgets.

one–up•man•ship /ˌwʌnˈʌpmənˌʃɪp/ *noun* [*noncount*] : behavior in which someone tries to get an advantage by doing, saying, or having better things than someone else ▪ a round of verbal *one-upmanship*

one–way *adj*
1 a : moving in or allowing movement in only one direction ▪ *one-way* traffic ▪ a *one-way* street/valve ▪ This street is just *one-way*. — compare TWO-WAY, THREE-WAY **b** *US* : allowing travel to a place but not back from the place ▪ a *one-way* [=(*Brit*) *single*] ticket/fare/trip — compare ROUND TRIP
2 : able to receive signals but not to send signals ▪ a *one-way* radio — compare TWO-WAY
3 : controlled by one of the two people who are involved ▪ a *one-way* [=*one-sided*] conversation ▪ a *one-way* relationship — compare TWO-WAY, THREE-WAY

one–way mirror *noun, pl* ~ **-rors** [*count*] : a piece of glass that is a mirror on one side but that you can see through like a window from the other side — called also *two-way mirror*

one–woman *adj, always used before a noun* : done, performed, or controlled by one woman ▪ a *one-woman* job/show/play/business

on•go•ing /ˈɑ:nˌgowɪŋ/ *adj* : continuing to exist, happen, or progress : continuing without reaching an end ▪ The investigation is *ongoing*. ▪ the *ongoing* events at the school ▪ *ongoing* efforts/research to find a cure for the disease ▪ an *ongoing* problem ▪ There is an *ongoing* debate over the issue.

on•ion /ˈʌnjən/ *noun, pl* **-ions** : a round vegetable that is usually white, yellow, or red and has a strong smell and taste [*count*] The recipe calls for chopped *onions*. ▪ He is growing *onions* in the garden this year. [*noncount*] The recipe calls for chopped *onion*. — see color picture on page C4; see also GREEN ONION

onion ring *noun, pl* ~ **rings** [*count*] : a ring of sliced onion that is covered with batter or bread crumbs and fried

on•line /ˈɑ:nˌlaɪn/ *adj*
1 : connected to a computer, a computer network, or the Internet ▪ an *online* printer ▪ The city libraries are all *online*.
2 : done over the Internet ▪ He likes to engage in *online* chats/discussions. ▪ *online* shopping/banking ▪ the company's *online* sales — opposite OFF-LINE
– **online** *adv* ▪ people who shop/chat *online* ▪ I went *online* to do a search for information about new cars. ▪ She spends a lot of her free time *online*.

on•look•er /ˈɑ:nˌlʊkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who watches an activity or event without being involved in it ▪ Curious *onlookers* watched the ceremony. ▪ An *onlooker* noticed the disturbance. ▪ A crowd of *onlookers* gathered at the fire.

[1]on•ly /ˈoʊnli/ *adj, always used before a noun* : alone in a class or category : existing with no other or others of the same kind — usually used with *the* or a possessive (such as *my, her, its, their, John's*, etc.) ▪ He's *the only* [=*one*] man I've ever loved. ▪ They were *the only* people to survive the crash. ▪ You're not *the only* one who's worried about the future. [=other people are also worried about the future] ▪ You're *the only* person I trust. ▪ my *only* true friend ▪ He was her *only* brother. ▪ What a shame, your party is on *the only* day I can't come! ▪ Mondays are Kim's *only* days off from work. ▪ This is *the only* cleaning product you'll ever need! ▪ Keeping you safe is our *only* [=*sole*] concern. ▪ That was *the only* reason I didn't take the job. ▪ *The only* way out is through that window. ▪ It's *the only* possible answer. = It's *the only* answer possible. ▪ *The only* thing left for us to do is wait. [=there is nothing else we can do but wait] ▪ (informally) I can probably come Friday. ***The only thing*** [=the one problem] is that my car is in the shop. ▪ It's ***the first and only*** drug of its kind. — see also ONLY CHILD, *the one and only* at [3]ONE
one of the only : one of very few : one in a small class or category ▪ That was *one of the only* times I ever saw my father cry. ▪ This is *one of the only* places in the world where the plant is found.
the only — used to emphasize that a particular person or thing should be the one chosen; usually + *for* ▪ This is *the only* book *for* serious collectors. ▪ She's *the only* person *for* the job.

[2]only *adv*
1 a : no more than ▪ They lost *only* [=*just, merely*] one game this season. ▪ I've met him *only* once. = I've *only* met him once. ▪ She had been there *only* twice in her life. ▪ We have *only* five minutes to get there. = We *only* have five minutes to get there. ▪ There are *only* two more weeks until summer vacation. ▪ It's *only* a matter of time before someone gets hurt. ▪ Do you really have to leave? It's *only* eight o'clock. ▪ He was *only* a baby when his father died. ▪ Leave her alone. She's *only* a kid. ▪ The building is *only* about 10 years old. ▪ She plays several instruments including the guitar, violin, and piano, to name *only* [=*but*] a few. ▪ It was quiet in the room, but *only* for a moment. ▪ She is *only* partly/partially to blame. **b** : nothing other than — used to indicate that a single thing was done, is needed, is possible, etc. ▪ I asked him a question, but he *only* smiled in response. ▪ I'm happy to help. You *only* have/need to ask. = (more formally) You have *only* to ask. = (more formally) You need *only* ask. [=I will gladly help you if you ask me to] ▪ We can *only* guess/imagine/wonder [=we cannot know] what they will do next. ▪ One can *only* hope for the best. [=there is nothing to do but hope for the best] **c** — used for emphasis ▪ ***I only wish*** [=I wish very much] you'd told me sooner. ▪ I ***only hope*** that the mistake will be corrected soon. ▪ It's ***only natural*** [=it's normal/reasonable] (that) you would feel that way. — sometimes used in the phrase ***only just*** ▪ We *only just* missed the bus. [=we missed it by a very small amount of time; we almost caught the bus] ▪ Our trip had *only just* begun.
2 : excluding all others ▪ The club is for women *only*. ▪ The sign on the door says "Employees *Only*." ▪ *Only* employees can use that door. : nobody or nothing except ▪ I love *only* you and no one else. ▪ She said *only* that she knew him. [=she said nothing other than that she knew him] ▪ The storm destroyed the house leaving *only* a pile of rubble. ▪ That sound can mean *only* one thing. = That sound can *only* mean one thing. ▪ *Only* the strongest will survive. ▪ *Only* the best fabric will do. [=I want nothing except the best fabric] ▪ The restaurant serves *only* vegetarian cuisine. ▪ For reasons known *only* to her/herself, she sold her house and left town.
3 a : in no time, place, or situation except the one specified ▪ Violence should be used *only* as a last resort. = Violence should *only* be used as a last resort. ▪ It should be used *only* when (it's) absolutely necessary. ▪ *Only* then did I realize that I had made a mistake. ▪ The animal is found *only* on the continent of Australia. ▪ *Only* in America can such things happen! [=such things cannot happen anywhere but in America] ▪ The drug is available *only* by prescription. = The drug is available by prescription *only*. ▪ I'll go ***only if*** he goes with me. = (more strongly) I'll go ***if and only if*** he goes with me. ▪ We made the change ***only after*** careful consideration of the consequences. **b** : for no other reason than ▪ I came here

only because she asked me to. ▪ *only* for the sake of argument
4 : nothing more important or serious than ▪ It was *only* [=*just*, *merely*] a minor accident. No one got hurt. ▪ I'm fine. It's *only* a scratch. ▪ "Who was that on the phone?" "Oh, it was *only* a salesperson." ▪ I didn't hit him. I *only* touched him! ▪ She didn't mean to insult you. She was *only* joking! ▪ They were *only* following orders.
5 — used to emphasize that something happened recently ▪ It happened *only* [=*just*] last week. ▪ I saw her here *only* a moment ago. ▪ *Only* in the last few years have we come to understand the condition. ▪ It seems like *only* yesterday that you were a baby.
6 a — used to say that something has or will have a particular and usually bad result ▪ You shouldn't eat that. It will *only* make you sick. ▪ The large number of people who came to help *only* added to the confusion. **b** — used to indicate something bad or surprising that happens after something else; followed by *to + verb* ▪ They won the battle, *only to lose* the war. [=they won the battle but lost the war] ▪ I ran to the station *only to find* (that) I had missed the train.
for your eyes only see ¹EYE
if only see ¹IF
in name only see ¹NAME
not only — used to say that both of two related statements are true ▪ *Not only* did they win, they won by a landslide. ▪ The killing of these animals is *not only* illegal, it's also immoral. ▪ The game is *not only* lots of fun, it's educational too! ▪ Photographs are *not only* permitted, they are encouraged. ▪ I'm concerned ***not only*** for myself, ***but*** for my children (as well). ▪ She had the nerve to accuse me of lying. And *not only* that, *but* she refused to apologize! ▪ The festivals take place ***not only*** in the city ***but also*** in the surrounding rural areas.
only have eyes for see ¹EYE
only too : very or completely ▪ He knew *only too* well [=he knew very well] what it meant to go to war. ▪ They were *only too* ready to give up and go home.
second only to see ¹SECOND

³only *conj, informal* : BUT, HOWEVER ▪ I'd love to sing along, *only* I don't know the words. ▪ They did have a radio, *only* it was broken. ▪ We wanted to buy that painting, *only* it was far too expensive.

only child *noun, pl* ~ **children** [*count*] : a person who never had a brother or sister ▪ I was an *only child*. ▪ As an *only child*, it was her duty to take care of her aging parents.

on–off *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : used to turn something on and off ▪ an *on-off* switch
2 : relating to something that is sometimes on and sometimes off ▪ an *on-off* pattern

on·o·mato·poe·ia /ˌɑːnəˌmɑːtəˈpiːjə, ˌɑːnəˌmætəˈpiːjə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : the creation of words that imitate natural sounds ▪ *Buzz* and *hiss* are examples of *onomatopoeia*.
– **on·o·mato·poe·ic** /ˌɑːnəˌmɑːtəˈpiːjɪk, ˌɑːnəˌmætəˈpiːjɪk/ *or* **on·o·mato·po·et·ic** /ˌɑːnəˌmɑːtəpoʊˈɛtɪk, ˌɑːnəˌmætəpoʊˈɛtɪk/ *adj* ▪ *onomatopoetic* words

on–ramp /ˈɑːnˌræmp/ *noun, pl* **-ramps** [*count*] *US* : a short road that is used for driving onto a highway — called also (*Brit*) *slip road*; compare OFF-RAMP

on·rush /ˈɑːnˌrʌʃ/ *noun* [*singular*]
1 : a strong, fast movement forward — usually + *of* ▪ an *onrush of* water/traffic
2 : a sudden development or appearance of something — usually + *of* ▪ the *onrush of* new technologies ▪ an *onrush of* tears/memories
– **on·rush·ing** /ˈɑːnˌrʌʃɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ an *onrushing* train/tide ▪ *onrushing* events

on–screen /ˈɑːnˈskriːn/ *adv*
1 : in a movie or television program ▪ They play newlyweds *on-screen*, but in real life they've been married 10 years.
2 : on a computer, television, or movie screen ▪ The images appear *on-screen*. ▪ Edit the text *on-screen*. ▪ She's only *on-screen* for a few seconds in this movie.
– **on–screen** *adj* ▪ the *on-screen* action (of the movie) ▪ the actor's *on-screen* family ▪ an *on-screen* display

on·set /ˈɑːnˌsɛt/ *noun* [*singular*] : the beginning of something ▪ the disease's sudden *onset* — usually + *of* ▪ the *onset of* winter ▪ the *onset of* the disease/war

on·shore /ˈɑːnˌʃoɚ/ *adj*
1 : moving from an ocean, lake, etc., toward land ▪ *onshore* winds
2 : on land ▪ an *onshore* oil field
– **on·shore** /ˈɑːnˈʃoɚ/ *adv* ▪ The winds are blowing *onshore*.

on·side /ˈɑːnˈsaɪd/ *adv, sports* : in a position in which you are allowed to play or receive the ball or puck : not offside ▪ He stepped back *onside*.
– **onside** *adj* ▪ He was *onside*. ▪ (*American football*) an ***onside kick*** [=a kick that goes only a short distance so that the team making the kick can try to get the ball instead of having it go to the other team]

on–site /ˈɑːnˈsaɪt/ *adv* : at the place where a business or activity happens ▪ Production is all done *on-site*.
– **on–site** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *on-site* parking

on·slaught /ˈɑːnˌslɑːt/ *noun, pl* **-slaughts** [*count*] : a violent attack ▪ an *onslaught* by the enemy — often used figuratively ▪ The article recommends several things you can do to prevent the *onslaught* of the disease. ▪ Employers are expecting an *onslaught* of recent college graduates [=a very large number of recent college graduates] looking for jobs.

on·stage /ˈɑːnˈsteɪʤ/ *adv* : on or onto a stage and in front of an audience ▪ She walked *onstage*. ▪ go *onstage*
– **onstage** *adj* ▪ a great *onstage* performance

on–the–job *adj, always used before a noun* : received, learned, or done while working at a job ▪ *on-the-job* training/experience/accidents

on·to /ˈɑːntʊ/ *prep*
1 : to a position that is on (something, such as a surface, area, or object) ▪ We climbed *onto* the building's roof. ▪ The book fell *onto* the floor. ▪ The water spilled *onto* the floor. ▪ The cowboy leaped *onto* his horse. ▪ Transfer the data *onto* a disk. ▪ Turn left *onto* Third Street at the traffic light. — often used figuratively ▪ Don't try to shift the blame *onto* me. [=don't try to blame me instead of the person who should be blamed]
2 : in a direction that allows you to get to or see (something) ▪ The door opens *onto* a balcony. [=when you go through the door you are on a balcony] ▪ The dining hall opens *onto* a courtyard. [=you can enter the courtyard from the dining hall] ▪ The bedroom window looks (out) *onto* the bay.
3 a — used to say that someone knows about what someone is doing or has done ▪ The police are *onto* them. [=the police know what they did or are doing] **b** — used to say that someone is becoming aware of or is finding something ▪ Scientists believe they are *onto* something big. [=scientists believe they are close to making an important discovery] ▪ When the crowd responded to the show so positively, we realized we were ***onto something***. [=we had done/discovered something important, special, etc.]
4 *chiefly Brit* : in the process of talking to (someone) usually to tell or ask something ▪ My parents are *onto* me again about getting a job.

onus /ˈoʊnəs/ *noun* [*singular*] *formal* : the responsibility for something — usually used with *the* ▪ *The onus* is on parents to teach their children not to use drugs.

¹on·ward (*chiefly US*) /ˈɑːnwɚd/ *or chiefly Brit* **on·wards** /ˈɑːnwɚdz/ *adv* : to or toward what is ahead in space or time ▪ The troops kept moving *onward*. [=*forward*] ▪ They have lived in that house from 1983 *onward*.
onward and upward *or* ***onwards and upwards*** : toward a better condition or higher level ▪ Technology has been steadily moving *onward and upward*. ▪ He is moving *onward and upward* in his business career.

²onward *adj, always used before a noun* : moving toward the future or toward a more advanced state or condition ▪ the *onward* [=*forward*] march of time

on·yx /ˈɑːnɪks/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a kind of stone that has straight lines of usually white and black or white and brown and that is used especially in jewelry — see color picture on page C11

oo·dles /ˈuːdlz/ *noun* [*plural*] *informal* : a large amount of something ▪ She has *oodles* of money.

¹ooh /ˈuː/ *interj* — used to express pleasure, surprise, or both pleasure and surprise ▪ *Ooh*, that feels good. ▪ *Ooh*, those flowers are beautiful!

²ooh *verb* **oohs**; **oohed**; **ooh·ing** [*no obj*] *informal* : to express pleasure, surprise, or both pleasure and surprise — used in the phrase ***ooh and aah*** ▪ Everyone in the crowd was *oohing and aahing* at/over the fireworks.
– **ooh** *noun, pl* **oohs** [*count*] ▪ ***Oohs and aahs*** could be heard from the crowd.

oomph /ˈʊmf/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal*
1 : a quality that makes something attractive or appealing ▪ This sauce needs more *oomph*. [=*kick*] ▪ The plot of the story lacks *oomph*.

O

2 : power or energy ▪ His argument lacks *oomph*. ▪ The truck doesn't have the *oomph* to haul the boat.

oops /ˈʊps/ *interj* — used to express surprise or distress or to say in a mild way that you are sorry about having done or said something wrong ▪ *Oops* [=*whoops, woops*], I spilled a little milk. ▪ *Oops*, I didn't mean to do that.

[1]ooze /ˈuːz/ *verb* **ooz·es; oozed; ooz·ing**

1 a [*no obj*] : to flow out slowly ▪ Sap *oozed* from the tree. ▪ Juice *oozed* out of the plum. ▪ The cut on her finger was *oozing* with blood. **b** [+ *obj*] : to have (something) flow out slowly ▪ The tree was *oozing* sap. ▪ The cut on her finger was *oozing* blood.

2 : to show (a quality, emotion, etc.) very clearly or strongly [+ *obj*] She *oozes* confidence. [=she has a lot of confidence] [*no obj*] — usually + *with* ▪ His letter *oozed with* sympathy.

[2]ooze *noun* [*singular*] : a slow flow of something (such as blood) ▪ A bandage will stop the *ooze* from that cut. — compare [3]OOZE

[3]ooze *noun* [*noncount*] : soft mud or slime (such as on the bottom of a lake) ▪ The turtle buried itself in the *ooze*. — compare [2]OOZE

[1]op /ˈɑːp/ *noun, pl* **ops** [*count*]

1 *Brit, informal* : a medical operation ▪ I have my *op* tomorrow. — see also POST-OP, PRE-OP

2 *chiefly US* : a set of planned actions for a particular purpose — usually plural ▪ military *ops* [=*operations*]

[2]op *abbr* **1** operation; operative; operator **2** opportunity **3** opus

opac·i·ty /oʊˈpæsəti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the quality of a material that does not allow light to pass through it : the quality of being opaque ▪ the *opacity* of the glass

2 *formal* : the quality of being difficult to understand or explain ▪ Critics have noted the *opacity* of her writing style.

opal /ˈoʊpəl/ *noun, pl* **opals** [*count, noncount*] : a white or clear stone that reflects changing colors and that is used in jewelry — see color picture on page C11

opaque /oʊˈpeɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : not letting light through : not transparent ▪ *opaque* glass ▪ the *opaque* water of the muddy river

2 : difficult to understand or explain ▪ *opaque* writing/theories

op–art /ˈɑːpˈɑɚt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : paintings, drawings, etc., made up of lines and shapes that are repeated and often placed in such a way that they look as though they are moving

OPEC /ˈoʊˌpɛk/ *abbr* Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries

op–ed /ˈɑːpˈɛd/ *noun, pl* **-eds** [*count*] *US* : an essay in a newspaper or magazine that gives the opinion of the writer and that is written by someone who is not employed by the newspaper or magazine ▪ She wrote an *op-ed* for the Wall Street Journal. — usually used before another noun ▪ an *op-ed* article/piece/writer

[1]open /ˈoʊpən/ *adj* **open·er; open·est** [*or more ~; most ~*]

1 : not closed: such as **a :** not covering an opening ▪ an *open* gate/window ▪ The door suddenly swung/flew *open*. ▪ You left the blinds ***wide open***. **b :** having an opening that is not covered ▪ an *open* doorway ▪ an *open* box/container ▪ The meat was roasted over an *open* fire. ▪ I was so tired that I couldn't keep my eyes *open*. ▪ Don't chew with your mouth *open*. ▪ *open* cuts/wounds [=cuts/wounds not covered by skin] ▪ staring with her eyes/mouth ***wide open***

2 : not sealed or locked ▪ *open* bottles of wine ▪ There's already an *open* jar of pickles in the refrigerator. ▪ an *open* envelope ▪ Go on in. The house/door is *open*. [=it is not locked]

3 : allowing movement or travel : not blocked ▪ They kept the road *open* throughout the winter. ▪ an *open* passageway

4 : able to be entered and used by customers, visitors, etc. ▪ The new store is now *open* for business! ▪ The store is *open* from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturdays. ▪ The library will not be *open* on Labor Day. ▪ The diner is *open* daily [=it is open every day] for breakfast. ▪ It's hard to find an *open* restaurant this time of night. ▪ We fought to keep the school *open*—but it closed anyway.

5 : having parts that are spread apart instead of folded together or attached ▪ an *open* umbrella ▪ Several of the pink roses are *open* this morning. ▪ The book was left *open* at/to page 42. ▪ Your zipper is *open*. ▪ His shirt was *open* [=was not buttoned] at the neck/collar. ▪ your *open* hands ▪ She ran toward me with her arms ***wide open***. [=with her arms held away from her body so that she could embrace me] ▪ They'll welcome you ***with open arms***. [=in a very kind and friendly way]

6 a : not containing or surrounded by walls, fences, buildings, etc. ▪ the ***wide open*** spaces of the American West ▪ fish caught in the ***open ocean*** [=an area of ocean that is far from land] ▪ He hung his clothes out to dry in ***the open air***. [=outside] ▪ traveling on ***the open road*** [=on roads that are away from cities and towns] ▪ Miles and miles of ***open country*** [=land with few buildings] lie beyond the town. **b** *of a building or room* : having few walls ▪ The house has an *open* floor plan. ▪ a bright, *open* kitchen

7 a : including or allowing a particular group of people — usually + *to* ▪ The contest is *open to* children between the ages of 8 and 13. ▪ The beach is *open to* residents only. ▪ The university library is also *open to* the public. ▪ The after-school program is *open to* anyone who needs extra academic help. **b :** including or allowing all people ▪ a meeting that allowed for *open* debate on the issue ▪ The town soccer program will hold *open* registration [=a time when people can register to participate] from now until September 21. ▪ an *open* golf tournament [=a golf tournament for both amateur and professional players]

8 a : available to be used ▪ I haven't decided to take the job yet. I'm keeping my options *open*. ▪ He gave us an ***open invitation*** to come and visit. [=he said we could visit any time we wanted] ▪ Leaving your car running with the keys inside is an *open invitation* to thieves. — often + *to* ▪ It's the only course *open to* us. ▪ Few career paths were *open to* women then. **b** *of a job, position, etc.* : not yet taken : available for someone to take or fill ▪ The job/position is still *open*. [=*vacant*] ▪ She's running for one of two *open* seats on the committee.

9 : happening or done in public so that people can participate or know what is being said or done ▪ The committee is holding *open* hearings on the issue. ▪ *open* sessions/meetings ▪ He testified in ***open court***. [=in a court that anyone is allowed to attend]

10 : not hidden or secret ▪ He is now facing *open* [=*undisguised, overt*] hostility from members of his own political party. ▪ They're in *open* disagreement about what should be done next. ▪ She speaks of the government with *open* disdain. ▪ his *open* affection for his wife ▪ *open* warfare

11 : expressing thoughts and feelings in a direct and honest way ▪ Be *open* [=*candid, frank*] with each other about your feelings. ▪ She encourages *open* communication between family members. ▪ an *open* discussion about religion

12 : willing to listen to or accept different ideas or opinions ▪ a free and *open* society ▪ We have one of the best systems in the country, but we're always ***open to suggestions***. ▪ I know it's different, but try to keep an ***open mind***. ▪ She spoke to them with an *open mind* and an ***open heart***.

13 a : not having ended : not yet finished or decided ▪ The case remains *open* to this day. [=it has not been solved] ▪ We can't talk about the case. It's still an ***open investigation***. [=the police are still investigating the case] ▪ The mayoral race is still ***wide open***. [=any of the candidates could still win] **b :** allowing further comments or discussion ▪ It's still an *open* question whether or not you may go. ▪ The question is still *open*. ▪ "Should we set a date for the next meeting?" "No, let's leave it *open* for now." ▪ The issue is not ***open for discussion***. [=we will not discuss the issue] — see also *open to debate* at [1]DEBATE

14 : able to be criticized, harmed, doubted, etc. — usually + *to* ▪ He lays/makes himself *open* [=*subject, liable*] *to* criticism with his foolish remarks. ▪ She argues that the current law is *open to* abuse [=the law can be abused] and should be changed. ▪ It's *open to* doubt whether she will run for governor. ▪ The author's exact meaning is *open to* question. [=no one knows exactly what the author means]

15 *sports* : not blocked or guarded by players from the other team ▪ She threw the ball to an *open* teammate. ▪ I'm *open*! Pass me the ball!

16 *computers* — used to describe a file, document, etc., that is being used ▪ You should close any *open* programs/documents before you reboot your computer.

17 — used to describe a microphone that is turned on ▪ He didn't realize that the microphone was *open*. ▪ Her comments were heard over an *open* microphone.

18 *of fabric* : having large openings or spaces between threads ▪ an *open* mesh/texture fabric ▪ an *open* weave wool sweater

keep your eyes open see [1]EYE

with your/both eyes open see [1]EYE

[2]open *verb* **opens; opened; open·ing**

1 a [+ *obj*] : to move (a door, window, etc.) so that an opening is no longer covered ▪ This door is hard to *open*. ▪ "*Open* the door!" shouted the police officer. ▪ Would you mind if I *opened* a window? ▪ Let's *open* (up) the curtains and let in some sunlight. **b** [*no obj*] : to move and no longer cover an opening ▪ The car door *opened* and a beautiful woman stepped out. ▪ The door *opened* and closed so quietly that I didn't notice he had come in the room. ▪ This drawer is stuck. It just won't *open*! ✧ The opposite of *open* is *close* in every sense except sense 10.

2 [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to no longer be covered, sealed, or blocked ▪ It's time to *open* (up) your birthday presents! ▪ *open* a can/box/jar ▪ She comes home, turns on the TV, and starts *opening* her mail. ▪ The janitor *opens* the building [=unlocks the doors of the building] at 7 o'clock. ▪ The city only *opened* (up) this street to cars five years ago.

3 : to separate the parts or edges of something [+ *obj*] *Open* (up) your books to page 27. ▪ She *opened* her eyes and smiled at me. ▪ I *opened* my umbrella and stepped out into the rain. ▪ "*Open* your mouth wide for me," said the dentist. ▪ You haven't *opened* your mouth [=you have not said anything] since you've been here. [*no obj*] "*Open* wide," said the dentist. ▪ His eyes *opened* slowly. ▪ I can't get this suitcase to *open*. ▪ The roses are starting to *open* (up).

4 : to make a hole or opening in (something) [+ *obj*] The surgery requires *opening* (up) the patient's chest. [*no obj*] ***The heavens opened*** [=it began to rain] and the rain poured down. = *The heavens opened up* and the rain poured down.

5 : to allow (a park, road, etc.) to be used [+ *obj*] The town *opened* the road again 10 days after the flood. ▪ They've finally *opened* the bridge (up) to traffic again. [=allowed cars to use the bridge again] [*no obj*] The park *opens* every morning at dawn.

6 a : to begin the regular services or activities of (a business, school, etc.) [+ *obj*] We'll be *opening* (up) the café an hour early tomorrow morning. [*no obj*] The café will be *opening* (up) an hour early tomorrow morning. ▪ What time does the library *open*? ▪ The store *opens* at 9 a.m. on Saturdays. **b** : to begin the activities or services of (a business, school, etc.) for the first time [+ *obj*] I've always dreamed of *opening* (up) a restaurant. ▪ a newly *opened* elementary school [*no obj*] They're building a drugstore, which is scheduled to *open* in May. ▪ We *opened* for business in 1955. ▪ The play *opens* [=begins being performed] next week. ▪ The film/movie *opens* [=begins being shown in movie theaters] nationwide later this month.

7 : to begin (something) [+ *obj*] The police have *opened* an inquiry/investigation into the matter. = The police have *opened* (up) an inquiry/investigation into the matter. ▪ We plan to *open* negotiations with the other side. ▪ a way of *opening* debate/discussion on the issue ▪ Let's *open* the bidding for this beautiful painting at $2,000. ▪ Her most famous poem *opens* the new collection. [=it is the first poem in the new collection] ▪ He always *opens* his speeches with a joke. ▪ It's traditional to *open* baseball games with the national anthem. ▪ She *opened* the meeting by thanking everyone for coming. [*no obj*] The song *opens* with a single voice singing a haunting melody. ▪ The novel *opens* (up) with a description of a small apartment. ▪ He always *opens* with a joke.

8 [+ *obj*] : to begin keeping money in (an account at a bank) ▪ I *opened* (up) a new savings account at a different bank.

9 [+ *obj*] *computers* : to begin to use (a file, document, or program) on a computer ▪ *opening* (up) a new document/file ▪ *Open* the program by double-clicking on the icon.

10 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to allow movement or passage through a doorway or other opening ▪ The hallway *opens* (up) into a large family room. ▪ A porch *opens* off the kitchen. = The kitchen *opens* onto a porch. — often + *out* ▪ Their bedroom *opens out* onto the backyard.

11 [*no obj*] : to have a specified price or be at a specified level at the beginning of the day ▪ The stock *opened* at $19 a share and closed at $22. ▪ Stocks *opened* weak but closed strong.

open doors for : to give special opportunities to (someone) ▪ Being the daughter of the famous actor *opened doors for* her in Hollywood.

open fire : to begin shooting ▪ A man *opened fire* in a crowded mall. ▪ The soldiers ***opened fire on*** [=began shooting at] enemy troops.

open for [*phrasal verb*] ***open for (someone or something)*** : to perform before (the main performer at a concert, show, etc.) ▪ One of my favorite comedians is *opening for* the band on their current tour.

open out [*phrasal verb*] *Brit* : to become less shy and speak more freely ▪ He began to *open out* [=*open up*] about an hour into our date. — see also ²OPEN 10 (above)

open someone's eyes see ¹EYE

open the door *or* ***open the way*** : to make (something) easier or more likely to happen — often + *for* or *to* ▪ Her success *opened the door for* thousands of young women who wanted to play sports. ▪ The court ruling *opened the way for* similar cases. ▪ His experiences in the army *opened the door to* a career in politics. ▪ It has *opened the way to* real progress.

open to [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***open (something) to (someone or something)*** : to allow (a particular group of people) to enter, use, or participate in (something) ▪ He *opens* his home *to* anyone who needs a place to stay. ▪ This year, we've *opened* the contest *to* all children under the age of 16. ▪ They decided to *open* the meeting *to* the general public. **2** ***open (someone or something) to (something)*** : to cause or allow (someone or something) to be affected by (something bad, such as criticism) ▪ Their actions have *opened* the government *to* charges of corruption. ▪ By being secretive about her past, she *opens* herself (up) *to* political attacks. [=she makes herself open to political attacks]

open up [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to become less shy and speak more freely ▪ She tried to get the patient to *open up* to her about his problems. ▪ He finally began *opening up* to her. **2** : to begin shooting ▪ The ships *opened up* with heavy gunfire. ▪ The enemy *opened up* [=*opened fire*] on us with automatic rifles. **3** — used to demand that someone who is inside a room, building, etc., let you in ▪ This is the police! *Open up*! **4** ***open up*** *or* ***open up (something)*** *or* ***open (something) up*** **a** : to become or cause (something) to become available or possible ▪ It seemed that the whole world was *opening up* for me. [=it seemed that anything was possible] ▪ Once he had his degree, many new opportunities *opened up* for him. ▪ This discovery *opens up* the possibility of new research. ▪ The government *opened up* the land for settlement. ▪ People *opened up* their homes to those affected by the tragedy. [=they invited those affected by the tragedy to stay in their homes] **b** : to become or cause (something) to become wider or less crowded ▪ At the bottom of the hill, the forest/landscape *opens up* to reveal a beautiful valley. ▪ It looks like the road/traffic *opens up* ahead. ▪ a drug that *opens up* the blood vessels **c** : to develop or cause (something) to develop ▪ A wide gap in the polls has *opened up* between the two candidates. ▪ The team won after *opening up* a 20-point lead in the game. ▪ This *opens up* an important question: why did it happen?

open your bowels see BOWEL

open your doors see DOOR

open your heart : to behave in a kind and generous way ▪ We were asked to *open our hearts* and our wallets. [=we were asked to be generous and give money] — often + *to* ▪ Please, *open your hearts to* these poor people. They desperately need your help.

open your mind : to become able to understand different ideas or ways of thinking ▪ She encourages her students to *open their minds* and try to see things from new perspectives. — often + *to* ▪ Traveling in Africa *opened my mind to* a completely different way of life. ▪ *Open your mind to* the possibility that you both may be right.

– **open·able** /ˈoʊpənəbəl/ *adj* ▪ an *openable* window

³open *noun, pl* **opens**

1 [*count*] : a competition (such as a major golf tournament or tennis tournament) that allows both professionals and amateurs to participate — usually used in names ▪ She lost at Wimbledon but won the French *Open*. ▪ a golfer who has played in several U.S. *Opens*

2 *the open* **a** : an area or place without walls, barriers, etc. : an area or place that is not covered or enclosed — used in the phrase ***(out) in/into the open*** ▪ We slept *out in the open* with nothing above us but the stars. ▪ We would look for deer feeding *in the open* [=away from the forest] at dusk. ▪ food left *out in the open* [=uncovered and not put away] **b** : a situation in which something (such as a feeling) is no longer hidden or kept secret — used in the phrase ***(out) in/into the open*** ▪ Her true feelings were finally *in the open*. ▪ He rarely fought his political battles *in the open*. [=he usually fought them in a secretive way] ▪ Let's get everything *out in the open*. You've been lying to me, haven't you?

open admission *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : OPEN ENROLLMENT

open adoption *noun, pl* ~ **-tions** [*count*] *chiefly US* : an adoption in which the people who become the legal parents of a child meet the child's biological parents

open–air *adj* : located outside rather than inside a building ▪ We visited an *open-air* [=*outdoor*] market in the center of the city. ▪ *open-air* restaurants

open–and–shut *adj* : able to be settled or decided very quickly and easily ▪ Her first assignment as a lawyer was an ***open-and-shut case*** involving a drunk driver.

open bar *noun, pl* ~ **bars** [*count*] *US* : a counter at a party or other gathering where alcoholic drinks are served for free ▪ They had a buffet and an *open bar* at the reception.

open·cast /ˈoʊpənˌkæst, *Brit* ˈəʊpənˌkɑːst/ *adj, Brit* : involving the removal of the surface of a large area of land to get at coal or other material that is near to the surface ▪ an *opencast* mine

open day *noun, pl* ~ **days** [*count*] *Brit* : OPEN HOUSE 1

open–door *adj*

1 : allowing all people to enter or participate ▪ *open-door* meetings ▪ an *open-door* immigration policy

2 : allowing people to talk directly with the people who control a business, organization, etc. ▪ an *open-door* environment ▪ The school has an ***open-door policy*** with parents.

open–end·ed /ˌoʊpənˈɛndəd/ *adj*

1 : able to change : not ending in a certain way or on a certain date ▪ "Our military presence in the region," he said, "should not be *open-ended*." ▪ *open-ended* plans

2 : allowing people to talk in a way that is not planned or controlled ▪ an *open-ended* conversation/discussion ▪ You have to ask ***open-ended questions*** if you don't want people to answer simply "yes" or "no."

open enrollment *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US*

1 : a policy or process by which parents may send their children to a different public school than the one in their own community ▪ Many voters support *open enrollment*. ▪ the city's *open enrollment* policy — called also *open admission*

2 : a period of time during which you can join something as a member or participant : a period of time during which you can enroll in something ▪ Employees can sign up for new benefits during *open enrollment*. ▪ an *open enrollment* period

open·er /ˈoʊpənə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a tool, device, or machine that is used to open something ▪ a bottle *opener* ▪ a garage door *opener* — see also CAN OPENER, EYE-OPENER, LETTER OPENER

2 : the first game, performance, etc., in a series ▪ This game will be the season *opener* [=the first game of the season] for both teams. ▪ The album's *opener* is a slow love song. ▪ the meal's delicious *opener* [=*starter*]

for openers *informal* : as the first thing to be thought about or said : to begin with ▪ She began by asking what we'd done with her money. And that was just *for openers*! ▪ (*chiefly US*) "What didn't you like about my poem?" "Well, *for openers* [=*for starters*], I hated the title."

open–eyed /ˌoʊpənˈaɪd/ *adj* : having eyes that are open or wide open ▪ They stared at her with *open-eyed* wonder. — sometimes used figuratively to describe dealing with, showing, or understanding something in a clear and honest way ▪ The film is an *open-eyed* look at the costs of war.

– **open–eyed** *adv* ▪ lying *open-eyed* in the dark

open–faced sandwich *also* **open–face sandwich** *noun, pl* ~ **-es** [*count*] *US* : a piece of bread that is covered with meat, cheese, etc. : a sandwich made with no bread on top — called also (*Brit*) *open sandwich*

open·hand·ed /ˌoʊpənˈhændəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : having or showing the quality of being very generous ▪ *openhanded* hospitality ▪ Of all our contributors, she was the most *openhanded*. [=*generous*]

2 : done with the hand held open ▪ an *openhanded* slap

open–heart *adj, always used before a noun, medical* : done by stopping the heart from beating for a period of time, opening the heart, and repairing damage ▪ *open-heart* surgery ▪ *open-heart* procedures/operations

open–hearted *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : kind and generous ▪ an *open-hearted* young woman

open house *noun, pl* ~ **houses**

1 [*count*] *US* : an event in which an organization (such as a school or company) invites the public to visit in order to see the things that happen there ▪ Westside High School will host an *open house* from 3 to 7 p.m. today, and all parents are invited to attend. ▪ colleges holding *open houses* for prospective students — called also (*Brit*) *open day*

2 [*count*] *US* : an event in which anyone who is interested in buying a particular house, apartment, etc., is invited to go inside and look at it ▪ We held an *open house* last week in the hopes that someone would offer to buy our house.

3 *chiefly Brit* : a home or other place in which guests or visitors are welcome [*noncount*] They ***kept open house***, and in the evenings neighbors would stop by to talk or play music. [*singular*] They always *kept* an *open house* for visitors.

[1]open·ing /ˈoʊpənɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 [*count*] : a hole or empty space that you can go through ▪ the *opening* of a cave ▪ They squeezed through a narrow *opening* between the fence and an oak tree. ▪ The enemy's troops poured through an *opening* in our defenses.

2 [*count*] : the first part of something : BEGINNING — usually singular ▪ We missed the *opening* of her speech. ▪ He injured himself two weeks after the *opening* of the season. ▪ the *opening* of the school year ▪ The story has a clever *opening*.

3 [*count*] : the first time that something happens ▪ We attended the *opening* [=the first performance] of the play. ▪ We went to the play's *opening*.

4 [*count*] : an event that is held in order to announce that something (such as a new store or public building) is ready to accept customers or visitors ▪ Come help us celebrate the official *opening* of the library. ▪ the *opening* of a new art exhibit — see also GRAND OPENING

5 [*count*] : a job or position that is available ▪ We do have an *opening* for someone with your qualifications and experience. ▪ We don't currently have any *openings*. ▪ a job *opening*

6 [*count*] : a chance or opportunity to do or say something ▪ She was waiting for an *opening* to tell her story. ▪ I saw an *opening* and went for it.

7 [*noncount*] : the act of causing something to open or of becoming open ▪ It has been 10 years since the *opening* of the café. ▪ the *opening* of a bank account ▪ the *opening* of the area for mining ▪ the *opening* of diplomatic relations between the two countries ▪ the *opening* (up) of the land to settlers

[2]opening *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : first or beginning ▪ It's the *opening* day of the fishing season. ▪ the *opening* lines of the poem ▪ the *opening* ceremonies of the Olympic Games ▪ In her ***opening statement***, she told the jury that her client was not guilty.

2 — used to describe the time when something is performed or shown for the first time ▪ The movie made 10 million dollars in its *opening* weekend. ▪ the play's ***opening night***

opening hours *noun* [*plural*] *chiefly Brit* : the time during which a business or organization is open for customers or visitors ▪ The store's *opening hours* [=*business hours*] are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

open letter *noun, pl* ~ **-ters** [*count*] : a letter that is published in a newspaper but that is addressed to a well-known person or to an organization ▪ In an *open letter* to the company, a citizens' group implored company executives to reconsider their decision to close the factory.

open·ly /ˈoʊpənli/ *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : in a direct and honest way : without hiding feelings or opinions ▪ He *openly* acknowledged/admitted his mistake. ▪ She spoke *openly* about her failed marriage. ▪ Please feel free to express your opinions *openly*. ▪ The governor has been *openly* critical of the President. ▪ an *openly* gay politician [=a politician who does not hide the fact that he or she is gay]

open market *noun* [*singular*] : an economic market in which prices are based on competition among private businesses and not controlled by a government : FREE MARKET ▪ How much is it worth ***on the open market***? ▪ bought/sold/traded *on the open market*

open marriage *noun, pl* ~ **-riages** [*count*] : a marriage in which both people agree to allow each other to have sex with other people

open mike *noun, pl* ~ **mikes** [*count*] : an event in which anyone may use a microphone to sing, read poetry, tell jokes, etc., for an audience ▪ There's an *open mike* tonight at my favorite café. ▪ an *open mike* night

open–mind·ed /ˌoʊpənˈmaɪndəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : willing to consider different ideas or opinions ▪ Try to be *open-minded* about the changes. ▪ He's one of the most *open-minded* people I've ever met. — opposite CLOSED-MINDED

– **open–mind·ed·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

open·mouthed /ˌoʊpənˈmaʊðd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having your mouth open usually because you are shocked or surprised ▪ I stood there *openmouthed*, unable to believe what I was seeing.

open–necked *adj, of a shirt* : having the top button unfastened ▪ wearing jeans and an *open-necked* shirt

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open·ness /ˈoʊpənnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the fact of not hiding your opinions, feelings, etc. ▪ She has been criticized for her lack of *openness* with the public.
2 : the quality of being willing to consider different ideas or opinions ▪ An *openness* to new ideas is essential in our work. ▪ *openness* of mind
3 : the state of not being surrounded or covered ▪ the *openness* of the desert/plains

open–pit *adj, US* : involving the removal of the surface of a large area of land to get at a mineral or other material that is near to the surface ▪ an *open-pit* mine ▪ *open-pit* mining

open–plan *adj, chiefly Brit* : having or consisting of a large room that is not divided into smaller rooms or areas ▪ an *open-plan* office

open prison *noun, pl* ~ **-sons** [*count*] *Brit* : a prison in which prisoners are allowed more freedom than in other prisons : a minimum security prison

open sandwich *noun, pl* ~ **-es** [*count*] *Brit* : OPEN-FACED SANDWICH

open season *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a time of year when it is legal to kill certain fish or animals ▪ *open season* for deer/bear
2 : a time when someone or something is being attacked or criticized by many people — often + *on* ▪ It's always *open season on* politicians!

open secret *noun, pl* ~ **-crets** [*count*] : something that many people know about but that is supposed to be a secret ▪ It's an *open secret* that he's been cheating on his wife.

open sesame *noun* [*singular*] : something that allows a person or thing to do or enter something successfully and easily ▪ Perfect test scores are an *open sesame* to the best schools. ✧ *Open sesame* comes from the story *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*, in which Ali Baba uses the magical command "open sesame" to open the door of the thieves' cave.

open–toed *adj, of a shoe* : not covering the toes or the tips of the toes ▪ *open-toed* shoes/sandals

open verdict *noun, pl* ~ **-dicts** [*count*] *Brit, law* : an official statement or decision saying that a crime has been committed but not naming a criminal or saying that there has been a death but not naming the cause of death

open·work /ˈoʊpənˌwɚk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : decoration that consists of designs made with openings or holes ▪ a potter who decorates her vases with *openwork*
– **openwork** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *openwork* carvings/patterns ▪ *openwork* fabrics such as lace

[1]op·era /ˈɑːpərə/ *noun, pl* **-eras**
1 [*noncount*] : a kind of performance in which actors sing all or most of the words of a play with music performed by an orchestra ▪ He is studying *opera*. ▪ French *opera* — often used before another noun ▪ an *opera* singer ▪ *opera* fans — see also GRAND OPERA
2 : a show in which opera is performed [*count*] I am going to an *opera* tonight. ▪ my favorite *operas* [*noncount*] I enjoy going to ***the opera***. [=going to opera performances]
3 [*count*] : a group of actors who perform operas together — often used in names ▪ the New York City *Opera*
– see also SOAP OPERA
– **op·er·at·ic** /ˌɑːpəˈrætɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ an *operatic* singer/voice

[2]opera *plural of* OPUS

op·er·a·ble /ˈɑːpərəbəl/ *adj*
1 *formal* : able to be used : capable of operating or of being operated ▪ The subway system will be fully *operable* [=*functional, operational*] by next month. ▪ The radio is *operable* without the car running. — opposite INOPERABLE 2
2 *medical* : able to be corrected or removed by surgery ▪ an *operable* cancer — opposite INOPERABLE 1

opera glasses *noun* [*plural*] : small binoculars that are designed to be used in a theater

op·era·go·er /ˈɑːpərəˌgowɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who frequently goes to operas

opera house *noun, pl* ~ **houses** [*count*] : a theater where operas are performed

op·er·ate /ˈɑːpəˌreɪt/ *verb* **-ates; -at·ed; -at·ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to function or behave in a proper or particular way ▪ They hope to have the windmill *operating* again tomorrow. ▪ The camera also *operates* underwater. ▪ The machine can *operate* at high speeds. ▪ We need someone who *operates* [=*performs*] well under pressure. ▪ The drug *operates* [=(more commonly) *works*] quickly.
2 [+ *obj*] : to use and control (something) ▪ instructions for *operating* the new microwave oven ▪ a license to *operate* a motor vehicle ▪ *operate* machinery — sometimes used in combination ▪ a coin-*operated* washing machine [=a washing machine that you must put coins into in order to use] ▪ voice-*operated* computer systems
3 a [+ *obj*] : to have control of (something, such as a business, department, program, etc.) ▪ *operating* [=*managing, running*] a business ▪ The café is owned and *operated* by a young couple. ▪ The organization *operates* a recycling program. **b** [*no obj*] : to function as a business, group, etc. ▪ It's the only casino *operating* in the state. ▪ The mill has been *operating* [=(more commonly) *in operation*] for 100 years. ▪ The company *operates* from Chicago. ▪ soldiers *operating* overseas ▪ a militant group *operating* against the government
4 [*no obj*] *medical* : to perform surgery ▪ The doctors needed to *operate* immediately. — often + *on* ▪ *operate on* a tumor/patient

operating *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to the operation of something: such as **a** : relating to the way a machine, vehicle, device, etc., functions or is used and controlled ▪ *operating* speed/conditions/controls **b** : relating to the way a business, department, program, etc., functions or is controlled ▪ *operating* costs/expenses

operating room *noun, pl* ~ **rooms** [*count*] *US* : a room in a hospital where operations are done — called also (*Brit*) *operating theatre*

operating system *noun, pl* ~ **-tems** [*count*] *computers* : the main program in a computer that controls the way the computer works and makes it possible for other programs to function

operating table *noun, pl* ~ **tables** [*count*] : a special table in an operating room that a person lies on while having an operation

operating theatre *noun, pl* ~ **-atres** [*count*] *Brit* : OPERATING ROOM

op·er·a·tion /ˌɑːpəˈreɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*count*] : a process in which a doctor cuts into someone's body in order to repair or remove a damaged or diseased part ▪ She is recovering from a major heart *operation*. [=she is recovering from major heart surgery] ▪ a minor/routine *operation* ▪ organ transplant *operations*
2 [*count*] **a** : a usually small business or organization ▪ The family runs a small farming *operation*. ▪ The company is a billion-dollar *operation*. **b** : an activity of a business or organization — usually plural ▪ a company's banking *operations* ▪ An independent company has been hired to review the hospital's *operations*.
3 [*noncount*] : the state of functioning or being used — used with *in* or *into* ▪ The system is now *in operation*. ▪ The mill has been *in operation* for over 100 years. ▪ Safety goggles must be worn while the machine is *in operation*. [=*in use*] ▪ The dam will go *into operation* next month.
4 [*noncount*] : the way something functions or is used ▪ The camera's design allows for easy *operation*. ▪ the quiet *operation* of the printer
5 [*count*] : a set of planned actions for a particular purpose ▪ The city has launched an *operation* to clean up the neighborhood. ▪ Ten arrests were made in an undercover *operation*. ▪ a rescue *operation* ▪ The military *operation* gave them control of the city. ▪ peacekeeping *operations*
6 [*count*] : a single action performed by a computer ▪ The computer can perform millions of *operations* per second.
7 [*noncount*] : the act of using and controlling something ▪ He was arrested for unlicensed *operation* of a motor vehicle.
8 [*count*] *mathematics* : a mathematical process (such as addition or multiplication) that is used for getting one number or set of numbers from others according to a rule

op·er·a·tion·al /ˌɑːpəˈreɪʃənl/ *adj*
1 : ready for use : able to be used ▪ The new airport should be fully *operational* by next year. ▪ The computer network is now *operational*.
2 *always used before a noun* : of or relating to the operation of a business or machine ▪ *operational* costs/performance

[1]op·er·a·tive /ˈɑːpərətɪv/ *adj*
1 : ready for use : capable of being used ▪ The factory must pass inspection before it becomes *operative*. ▪ The telephone system is now fully *operative*. — opposite INOPERATIVE
2 : most important ▪ If I go, I will bring a salad. "If," however, is the ***operative word***, since I am not sure that I can go.

[2]operative *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*]
1 *chiefly US* : a person who does secret work for a govern-

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ment or political organization ▪ political *operatives* [=*spies*] ▪ CIA/FBI *operatives* [=*agents*]

2 : a person who does work that involves using tools, operating machinery, etc. ▪ factory *operatives* ▪ a skilled *operative*

op•er•a•tor /ˈɑːpəˌreɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]

1 : a person who uses and controls something (such as a machine, device, or business) : someone who operates something ▪ a computer/crane *operator* ▪ the *operator* of an automobile ▪ the *operator* of a nuclear power plant

2 : a person whose job is to help to connect telephone calls : a person who is in charge of a telephone switchboard ▪ Call the *operator* for the phone number. ▪ *Operator*, please connect me with extension 123.

3 : a person who is able to easily achieve things especially by persuading people or by being dishonest ▪ She's quite an *operator*—no one else could have gotten them all to agree to the project. ▪ a smooth *operator*

op•er•et•ta /ˌɑːpəˈrɛtə/ *noun, pl* **-tas** [*count*] : a usually short and funny opera that includes dancing

oph•thal•mic /ɑfˈθælmɪk/ *adj, medical* : of or relating to the eye ▪ *ophthalmic* surgery/surgeons

ophthalmic optician *noun, pl* ~ **-cian** [*count*] *Brit* : OPTOMETRIST

oph•thal•mol•o•gist /ˌɑːfθəlˈmɑːlədʒɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*] *medical* : a doctor who studies and treats problems and diseases of the eye — compare OPTICIAN, OPTOMETRIST

oph•thal•mol•o•gy /ˌɑːfθəlˈmɑːlədʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : the study of the structure, functions, and diseases of the eye

opi•ate /ˈoʊpijət/ *noun, pl* **-ates** [*count*]

1 : a drug (such as morphine or codeine) that is made from opium and that is used to reduce pain or cause sleep

2 *disapproving* : something that causes people to ignore problems and to relax instead of doing things that need to be done ▪ Many see television as an *opiate* of/for the masses.

opine /oʊˈpaɪn/ *verb* **opines**; **opined**; **opin•ing** *formal* : to express an opinion about something [+ *obj*] Many people *opine* that the content of Web pages should be better regulated. [*no obj*] You can *opine* about/on any subject you like.

opin•ion /əˈpɪnjən/ *noun, pl* **-ions**

1 : a belief, judgment, or way of thinking about something : what someone thinks about a particular thing [*count*] Why ask (for) my *opinion* if you have already decided? ▪ I value your *opinion*. [=I respect the way you think about things] ▪ We asked for their *opinions* about/on the new stadium. ▪ ***In my opinion***, it's the best car on the market. ▪ Most of the people surveyed have a ***high/low opinion of*** the organization. [=most of the people surveyed think that the organization is good/bad] ▪ She has enough knowledge of the system to offer an ***informed opinion*** [=an opinion based on information] of why it isn't working. ▪ The meeting will give residents a chance to listen to some ***expert opinions***. [=opinions of experts] [*noncount*] The owner of the store is often there to offer customers *expert opinion*. [=an expert's opinion] ▪ Which one is better is a ***matter of opinion***. [=people have different opinions about which one is better] ▪ I'm glad that we can have a ***difference of opinion*** [=we can disagree] and still be friends. ▪ The ***general opinion*** is that the players are paid too much. [=most people think that the players are paid too much] ▪ The company has been unsuccessful in its efforts to sway/change ***public opinion***. [=to change what most people think] ▪ ***Contrary to popular opinion*** [=despite what many people think], fame does not always bring happiness.

2 [*count*] : advice from someone with special knowledge : advice from an expert ▪ We're still seeking ***medical opinions*** [=advice from doctors] on the cause of the pain. ▪ My doctor says I need surgery, but I'm going to get a ***second opinion***. [=advice from a second doctor to make sure advice from the first doctor is correct]

3 [*count*] *technical* : a formal statement by a judge, court, etc., explaining the reasons a decision was made according to laws or rules ▪ The article discusses two recent Supreme Court *opinions*.

be of the opinion : to have a specifed opinion or belief ▪ They *are of the opinion* [=they think/believe] that the accident was caused by faulty wiring.

the court of public/world opinion see [1]COURT

opin•ion•at•ed /əˈpɪnjəˌneɪtəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *often disapproving* : expressing strong beliefs or judgments about something : having or showing strong opinions ▪ an articulate and *opinionated* critic ▪ People don't expect such *opinionated* commentary in what is supposed to a news article.

opinion maker *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a person whose opinion influences the opinions of many other people — usually plural ▪ bloggers, journalists, and other *opinion makers*

opinion poll *noun, pl* ~ **polls** [*count*] : an activity in which many people are asked the same questions in order to find out what most people think about something ▪ An *opinion poll* showed that he was favored to win the election.

opi•um /ˈoʊpijəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a powerful illegal drug that is made from a type of poppy

opos•sum /əˈpɑːsəm/ *noun, pl* **-sums** *also* **-sum** [*count*] : a somewhat small white or gray animal that is usually active at night and that lives in North and South America and in Australia — called also *possum*



opossum

opp *or* **opp.** *abbr* opposite

op•po•nent /əˈpoʊnənt/ *noun, pl* **-nents** [*count*]

1 : a person, team, group, etc., that is competing against another in a contest ▪ She is a formidable *opponent* in the race for senator. ▪ The team's *opponents* have not lost a game this season. ▪ He knocked out his *opponent* in the third round.

2 : a person, group, etc., that is against something (such as an action, law, or system) : someone or something that does not want something to exist, be done, etc. — often + *of* ▪ *opponents of* the war ▪ *opponents of* building a new baseball stadium ▪ *opponents of* abortion/slavery/communism — opposite PROPONENT

op•por•tune /ˌɑːpɚˈtuːn, *Brit* ˈɒpətjuːn/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : suitable or right for a particular situation ▪ She was waiting for an *opportune* [=*appropriate*] moment to ask for money. ▪ There isn't a more *opportune* time to invest in the stock market. — opposite INOPPORTUNE

2 : done or happening at the right time ▪ The book's publication is *opportune*. [=*timely*] — opposite INOPPORTUNE

op•por•tun•ist /ˌɑːpɚˈtuːnɪst, *Brit* ˌɒpəˈtjuːnɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] *disapproving* : someone who tries to get an advantage or something valuable from a situation without thinking about what is fair or right ▪ Most burglars are *opportunists*. ▪ a political *opportunist* who changed his healthcare plan to win the election

– **op•por•tun•ism** /ˌɑːpɚˈtuːˌnɪzəm, *Brit* ˌɒpəˈtjuːˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The release of the movie so soon after the scandal is shameless *opportunism*. – **op•por•tu•nis•tic** /ˌɑːpɚtuˈnɪstɪk, *Brit* ˌɒpətjuˈnɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ an *opportunistic* merger/investment/politician

op•por•tu•ni•ty /ˌɑːpɚˈtuːnəti, *Brit* ˌɒpəˈtjuːnəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** : an amount of time or a situation in which something can be done : CHANCE [*count*] You'll have an/the *opportunity* to ask questions after the presentation. ▪ There were many missed *opportunities* (to score) throughout the game. ▪ When the *opportunity* came for her to prove that she could do the job, she was ready. ▪ I had the rare/unique *opportunity* of speaking to the president. ▪ Studying abroad provides a great *opportunity* to learn a foreign language. ▪ This sort of *opportunity* comes along once in a lifetime. = This is a once-in-a-lifetime *opportunity*. ▪ There are fewer job/employment *opportunities* this year for graduates. ▪ This is a ***golden opportunity***. [=an excellent chance to do or get something] ▪ I would like to ***take this opportunity*** to thank everyone who helped me with this book. ▪ He was given ***every opportunity*** to prove that he was trustworthy. ▪ The dog ran away ***at every opportunity***. [=whenever it was able to] ▪ Please call us ***at your earliest opportunity***. [=please call us as soon as you can] ▪ We will correct the error ***at the first opportunity***. [=as soon as we are able to] [*noncount*] There is plenty of *opportunity* for advancement within the company. ▪ The contract provides us with a two-year ***window of opportunity***. [=two years to do something that we want to do] ▪ the ***land of opportunity*** [=a place where there are many opportunities; a place where people have many chances to succeed, achieve things, etc.] ▪ You need to be ready ***when opportunity knocks***. [=when you get the chance to do something you want to do]

equal opportunity employer (*US*) *or Brit* ***equal opportuni-***

ties employer : an employer who does not discriminate against people because of their race, religion, etc.

op•pos•able /ə'poʊzəbəl/ *adj, technical* : able to be placed against one or more of the other fingers or toes on the same hand or foot ▪ Humans have an ***opposable thumb***.

op•pose /ə'poʊz/ *verb* **-pos•es; -posed; -pos•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to disagree with or disapprove of (something or someone) ▪ The governor *opposes* the death penalty. ▪ The change is *opposed* by many of the town's business leaders. ▪ The group *opposes* the mayor and is trying to find a candidate to run against her. ▪ You've *opposed* every suggestion I've made.
2 a : to compete against (someone) : to be an opponent of (someone) ▪ He met the man who will *oppose* him in the next election. ▪ These two teams *opposed* each other in last year's playoffs. **b** : to try to stop or defeat (something) ▪ We're hoping we can get more senators to *oppose* the legislation.

opposed /ə'poʊzd/ *adj, not used before a noun*
1 [*more ~; most ~*] : not agreeing with or approving of something or someone ▪ Many voters approve of the plan, but some are *opposed*. [=some are against it] — usually + *to* ▪ He is *opposed to* the new law. [=he opposes the new law] ▪ She is often *opposed to* the governor on budget issues.
2 : completely different ▪ Their political philosophies are ***diametrically opposed*** (to each other).
as opposed to — used to refer to something that is different from what has just been mentioned ▪ The car gets 30 miles per gallon, *as opposed to* [=*unlike*] last year's model, which got only 25. ▪ They use fresh fish, *as opposed to* [=*instead of*] fish that has been frozen. ▪ I'd say she is a good player, *as opposed to* [=*rather than*] a great one. ▪ Try to see it as an opportunity to learn something, *as opposed to* a setback.

opposing *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : fighting or competing against another person or group ▪ The crowd booed the *opposing* team. ▪ members of the *opposing* political party : fighting or competing against each other ▪ *opposing* teams/armies
2 : completely different ▪ *opposing* viewpoints ▪ He and his wife have *opposing* opinions on the issue.
3 : opposite in direction or position ▪ The trains were moving in *opposing* directions. [=the trains were moving away from each other] ▪ The boxers sat in *opposing* corners of the ring.

[1]op•po•site /'ɑ:pəzət/ *adj*
1 : located at the other end, side, or corner of something : located across from something ▪ The two boys lived on *opposite* sides of the street. ▪ the *opposite* bank of the river ▪ Fold the bottom right corner of the paper over to the *opposite* corner. ▪ She switched her ring to the *opposite* hand. [=she took her ring off the finger of one hand and put it on a finger of the other hand] ▪ The text refers to an illustration on the *opposite* page. [=on the page that faces it]
2 : completely different ▪ The two scientists had the same information but reached *opposite* conclusions. ▪ They represent *opposite* sides of the issue. ▪ They ran in *opposite* directions. ▪ Some herbs help you sleep while others have the *opposite* effect. [=other herbs keep you awake] ▪ Her music is ***at the opposite end of the spectrum/continuum*** from the music her mother made. ▪ Once serving only small portions at high prices, the restaurant has gone to the ***opposite extreme*** under the new owners. [=the restaurant now serves large amounts of food for low prices]
the opposite side of the coin see [1]COIN

[2]opposite *adv* : on the other side of someone or something : across from someone or something ▪ I sat down and he sat *opposite*. — usually + *to* ▪ He lives *opposite to* me. ▪ Put one leg forward, and then lift the arm that is *opposite to* the forward leg. [=lift your right arm if your left leg is forward; lift your left arm if your right leg is forward]

[3]opposite *noun, pl* **-sites** [*count*]
1 : someone or something that is completely different from someone or something else ▪ We thought the job might be difficult, but it was quite the *opposite*. [=it was easy] ▪ He said that the disease is becoming more common, but really the *opposite* is true. [=the disease is not becoming more common; it is becoming less common] ▪ My two sisters are polar/complete/exact *opposites* (of each other)—one is very friendly while the other is very shy.
2 : a word with a meaning that is completely different from the meaning of another word : ANTONYM ▪ "Wet" is the *opposite* of "dry." ▪ The terms "black" and "white" are *opposites*.
opposites attract — used to say that people who are very different from each other are often attracted to each other

[4]opposite *prep*
1 : on the other side of (something or someone) : across from (something or someone) ▪ He sat *opposite* me. ▪ She lives in the house *opposite* ours. ▪ The school is *opposite* a park. ▪ I played *opposite* the best player in the league.
2 *of an actor* : in a play, movie, etc., with (another actor) ▪ She stars/plays *opposite* Clint Eastwood in her latest movie.

opposite number *noun, pl* ~ **-bers** [*count*] : someone who has the same job or position as you but in a different company, organization, etc. : COUNTERPART

opposite sex *noun*
the opposite sex : the people who are not the same sex as you : the other sex ▪ people of *the opposite sex* — used by men to refer to women or by women to refer to men ▪ He's never been comfortable around (members of) *the opposite sex*. [=never been comfortable around women]

op•po•si•tion /ˌɑ:pə'zɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*noncount*] : actions or opinions that show that you disagree with or disapprove of someone or something ▪ They're going ahead with the plans despite strong/fierce *opposition* from residents. ▪ The nominee faces strong *opposition* in the Senate. ▪ The proposed change has met with *opposition* from the town's business leaders. — often + *to* ▪ He expressed his *opposition to* the new law.
2 [*noncount*] : action that is done to stop or defeat someone or something ▪ Rebels have so far offered little *opposition* to advancing troops.
3 *the opposition* **a** : a person or group that you are trying to defeat or succeed against : a person or group that you are competing with ▪ Each candidate is focused on raising more money than *the opposition*. ▪ The coach advised her team not to underestimate *the opposition*. **b** *or* ***the Opposition*** : a political party that is trying to replace the political party in power ▪ *The opposition* is likely to win (in) the upcoming elections. ▪ The leader of *the Opposition* criticized the prime minister for his comments. — often used before another noun ▪ He's a member of the country's *opposition* party.
4 [*noncount*] *formal* : the state or relationship of two things that are completely different from each other ▪ Her article looks at the *opposition* between science and religion.
in opposition to **1** : in a way that is against someone or something ▪ He spoke *in opposition to* the new law. ▪ Her theories stand *in opposition to* traditional beliefs. **2** : in a way that shows how two things are different or disagree ▪ two words that can be defined *in opposition to* each other
– **op•po•si•tion•al** /ˌɑ:pə'zɪʃənl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* ▪ *oppositional* groups/behavior

op•press /ə'prɛs/ *verb* **-press•es; -pressed; -press•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to treat (a person or group of people) in a cruel or unfair way ▪ The country has long been *oppressed* by a ruthless dictator. ▪ They condemned attempts by the government to *oppress* its citizens. ▪ people who have traditionally been *oppressed* by society ▪ *oppressed* minorities/people
2 : to make (someone) feel sad or worried for a long period of time — usually used as *(be) oppressed* ▪ He *was oppressed* by a sense of failure. ▪ The family *was oppressed* by grief.
the oppressed : people who are oppressed ▪ freedom for *the oppressed*
– **op•pres•sion** /ə'prɛʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *oppression* of women in the workplace ▪ the fight against political *oppression* in the world – **op•pres•sor** /ə'prɛsɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sors** [*count*] ▪ They remain at the mercy of their *oppressors*.

op•pres•sive /ə'prɛsɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : very cruel or unfair ▪ The country is ruled by an *oppressive* regime. ▪ I think these laws are *oppressive*.
2 : very unpleasant or uncomfortable ▪ This region suffers from *oppressive* heat in the summer months. ▪ The situation was extremely tense; no one said a word, and the silence was *oppressive*. ▪ an *oppressive* work environment
– **op•pres•sive•ly** *adv* ▪ It was an *oppressively* humid day. ▪ an *oppressively* dull office

op•pro•bri•um /ə'proʊbrijəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : very strong disapproval or criticism of a person or thing especially by a large number of people ▪ They're going ahead with the plan despite public *opprobrium*. ▪ a group of critics who use "romanticism" as a ***term of opprobrium*** [=a word that is used to show disapproval]

opt /'ɑ:pt/ *verb* **opts; opt•ed; opt•ing** [*no obj*] : to choose one thing instead of another — often + *for* ▪ He usually or-

O

ders strawberry ice cream but *opted for* chocolate this time. — often followed by *to + verb* ▪ She was offered a job but *opted to go* to college instead. ▪ We *opted* not *to buy* the extra insurance.

opt in [*phrasal verb*] : to choose to do or be involved in something ▪ The company offered a new health insurance plan so that more workers would *opt in*.

opt out [*phrasal verb*] : to choose not to do or be involved in something ▪ Most employees participated in the pension plan, but a few *opted out*. — often + *of* ▪ A few employees *opted out of* the pension plan. — see also OPT-OUT

op•tic /'ɑ:ptɪk/ *adj, always used before a noun, technical* : of or relating to the eyes ▪ the *optic* nerve ▪ *optic* surgery

op•ti•cal /'ɑ:ptɪkəl/ *adj, technical*

1 : used to help a person see ▪ The company manufactures microscopes, telescopes, and other *optical* instruments.

2 : relating to or using light ▪ an *optical* laser

3 : involving the use of devices that get information for a computer by identifying patterns of light ▪ an *optical* scanner ▪ *optical* character recognition

– op•ti•cal•ly /'ɑ:ptɪkli/ *adv* ▪ The page was *optically* scanned.

optical disk *noun, pl* ~ **disks** [*count*] : a computer disk on which information is recorded in a way that can be read by a laser

optical fiber (*US*) *or Brit* **optical fibre** *noun, pl* ~ **-bers** [*count*] *technical* : a long, thin, glass or plastic thread that carries information in the form of light : a fiber-optic thread

optical illusion *noun, pl* ~ **-sions** [*count*] : something that looks different from what it is : something that you seem to see but that is not really there ▪ The closer building looks larger than the farther one, but it's just an *optical illusion*. The two buildings are actually the same size.

op•ti•cian /ɑp'tɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-cians** [*count*] : a person whose job is to sell eyeglasses and contact lenses, to make sure that they fit correctly, and sometimes to make eyeglasses — compare OPHTHALMOLOGIST, OPTOMETRIST

op•tics /'ɑ:ptɪks/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the science that studies light and the way it affects and is affected by other things — see also FIBER OPTICS

op•ti•mal /'ɑ:ptəməl/ *adj, formal* : best or most effective : OPTIMUM ▪ He keeps his engine tuned for *optimal* performance. ▪ Under *optimal* conditions, these plants grow quite tall. ▪ *optimal* health — see also SUBOPTIMAL

– op•ti•mal•ly *adv* ▪ Her plants were *optimally* placed to receive the greatest amount of light.

op•ti•mism /'ɑ:ptə,mɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a feeling or belief that good things will happen in the future : a feeling or belief that what you hope for will happen ▪ Both of them expressed *optimism* about the future of the town. ▪ The early sales reports are cause/reason/grounds for *optimism*. ▪ Most of us reacted to the news with cautious/guarded *optimism*. [=a feeling that something good may happen but will not definitely happen] ▪ There is growing *optimism* that the problem can be corrected. ▪ He maintains a sense of *optimism*, despite all that has happened. — opposite PESSIMISM

op•ti•mist /'ɑ:ptəmɪst/ *noun, pl* **-mists** [*count*] : a person who usually expects good things to happen ▪ You have to be a bit of an *optimist* to start a business. ▪ Somehow he remained an *optimist* despite all that had happened to him. — opposite PESSIMIST

op•ti•mis•tic /,ɑ:ptə'mɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing hope for the future : expecting good things to happen : HOPEFUL ▪ Both of them were *optimistic* about the future of the town. ▪ He has an *optimistic* view of the company's future. ▪ People are increasingly *optimistic* that the problem can be corrected. ▪ Somehow he remained *optimistic* despite all that had happened to him. — opposite PESSIMISTIC

– op•ti•mis•ti•cal•ly /,ɑ:ptə'mɪstɪkli/ *adv* ▪ Both of them spoke *optimistically* about the future of the town.

op•ti•mize *also Brit* **op•ti•mise** /'ɑ:ptə,maɪz/ *verb* **-miz•es; -mized; -miz•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to make (something) as good or as effective as possible ▪ The new system will *optimize* the efficiency with which water is used. ▪ efforts to *optimize* service/performance — often used as *(be) optimized* ▪ The car's design *is optimized* for speed. [=the car has been specially made to go as fast as possible]

[1]op•ti•mum /'ɑ:ptəməm/ *noun, pl* **-ma** /-mə/ *also* **-mums** [*count*] *formal* : the amount or degree of something that is best or most effective ▪ The substances were mixed in various proportions until an *optimum* was reached.

[2]optimum *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : best or most effective : OPTIMAL ▪ They made *optimum* use of limited funds. ▪ We were not working under *optimum* conditions. ▪ For *optimum* results, allow the paint to dry overnight.

op•tion /'ɑ:pʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*]

1 : the opportunity or ability to choose something or to choose between two or more things ▪ You have the *option* of staying home or coming with us. ▪ He has the *option* to cancel the deal. ▪ Given the *option* [=*choice*], I'd rather stay home tonight. ▪ I'll probably take the job, but I'm ***leaving/keeping my options open*** [=waiting to decide; not making a final decision yet] for now.

2 : something that can be chosen : a choice or possibility ▪ For us, quitting is not an *option*. [=we cannot quit] ▪ You must accept the contract. There are no other *options*. [=*alternatives*] ▪ We have a wide range of *options* available to us. ▪ Menu *options* at the café include soups, salads, and sandwiches. ▪ Select an *option* from the drop-down menu. ▪ Filing taxes online is an *option* for people with Internet access. ▪ I had no *option* but to start over. ▪ A good/better *option* is to do the work yourself. ▪ The scandal ***left him no option*** but to resign. [=forced him to resign]

3 : a right to buy or sell something for a specified price during a specified period of time ▪ Employees will each be granted/given *options* to buy 1,000 shares of company stock. ▪ The *option* must be exercised within five years. ▪ The company has ***taken an option*** on some land nearby. [=it has obtained the right to buy the land at a particular price] ▪ The ad is for a condo to rent with an ***option to buy***. [=a condo that you can choose to eventually buy for a specified price] — see also STOCK OPTION

4 : an extra part or feature that you can pay to have in addition to the regular features that come with something you are buying ▪ A sunroof was one of the *options* that you could get with the car.

5 *Brit* : a class that is not required in a particular course of study : ELECTIVE ▪ I took an *option* in history last year.

op•tion•al /'ɑ:pʃənl/ *adj* : available as a choice but not required ▪ Jackets are required at the restaurant, but ties are *optional*. ▪ Many *optional* features are available on this car. ▪ Registration is *optional*, not mandatory.

op•tom•e•trist /ɑp'tɑ:mətrɪst/ *noun, pl* **-trists** [*count*] : a person whose job is to examine people's eyes to find out if they need eyeglasses or medical treatment — called also (*Brit*) *ophthalmic optician*; compare OPHTHALMOLOGIST, OPTICIAN

op•tom•e•try /ɑp'tɑ:mətri/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the profession of examining people's eyes to find out if they need eyeglasses or medical treatment

opt–out *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*] : an opportunity to choose not to do or take part in something ▪ The school will offer an *opt-out* for students whose parents object to the program. ▪ There is an *opt-out* clause in the contract. — see also *opt out* at OPT

op•u•lent /'ɑ:pjələnt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very comfortable and expensive : LUXURIOUS ▪ *opulent* new homes ▪ *opulent* furnishings ▪ the *opulent* [=*affluent*] lifestyle of wealthy people

2 : very wealthy ▪ an *opulent* widow

– op•u•lence /'ɑ:pjələns/ *noun* [*noncount*]

opus /'oʊpəs/ *noun, pl* **op•era** /'oʊpərə/ *also* **opus•es** /'oʊpəsəz/ [*count*]

1 : a piece of music written by a major composer — usually singular; usually followed by a number (called an *opus number*) that indicates when a piece of music was written in the list of works written by the same composer ▪ The concert began with Beethoven's *Opus* 27.

2 *formal* : an important work done by a writer, painter, etc. — usually singular ▪ the author's latest *opus* — see also MAGNUM OPUS

or /'oɚ, ɚ/ *conj*

1 — used to introduce another choice or possibility ▪ You can have coffee *or* tea. ▪ Would you like beer, wine, *or* something else? ▪ He must be her brother—*or* is he? [=maybe he is not her brother] ▪ I'll call (either) today *or* tomorrow. ▪ (*somewhat informal*) I didn't mean to annoy you ***or anything***. ▪ (*somewhat informal*) Can I get you a cup of coffee ***or something***?

2 — used in negative statements to introduce something else that is also true ▪ We couldn't stop *or* even slow down the whole time. [=we could not stop and we could not slow down] ▪ They have no food *or* water. [=they do not have food and they do not have water]

3 — used to say what will happen if a specified thing is not done ▪ Finish your dinner *or* you won't get any dessert. [=if you do not finish your dinner, then you will not get any dessert] ▪ Be at the station by 5 o'clock *or* you will miss the bus.
4 — used to introduce another number or amount that is possibly the correct one ▪ It's been two *or* three years since I've seen her. ▪ The package should arrive in five *or* six days. ▪ We waited for an hour ***or more***.
5 — used to introduce the reason why something said previously is true ▪ He must be hiding something *or* he wouldn't be lying. [=he would not lie if he were not hiding something; the fact that he is lying means that he must be hiding something]
6 a — used to introduce a word or phrase that defines or explains what another word or phrase means ▪ Botany, *or* the science of plants, is a fascinating subject. = The science of plants, *or* botany, is a fascinating subject. ▪ This pan is used for sautéing, *or* frying, the vegetables. **b** — used to introduce a word or phrase that corrects or states more precisely something you have just said ▪ We got here quickly—*or* more quickly than last time, anyway. = We got here quickly—***or at least*** more quickly than last time. ▪ The building is 500, ***or to be precise***, 502 years old. ▪ She breeds rabbits, ***or rather*** hares.
or else see ¹ELSE
or so see ²SO

OR *abbr* **1** Oregon **2** operating room

-or */ɚ/ noun suffix* : a person or thing that does a specified action ▪ elevat*or* ▪ translat*or*

or•a•cle /ˈorəkəl/ *noun, pl* **-a•cles** [*count*]
1 *in ancient Greece* **a** : a person (such as a priestess) through whom a god was believed to speak ▪ consulting an *oracle* **b** : the place (such as a shrine) where people went to ask questions of an oracle **c** : an answer or message given by an oracle
2 : a person who has a lot of knowledge about something and whose opinions and advice are highly valued ▪ I met her long before she had become the *oracle* of pop culture.
– orac•u•lar /oˈrækjələ/ *adj, formal* ▪ The students admired the old professor's *oracular* wisdom. ▪ an *oracular* pronouncement

¹oral /ˈorəl/ *adj*
1 : of or relating to the mouth ▪ She practices good *oral* hygiene by brushing her teeth at least twice a day. ▪ *oral* cancer/surgery ▪ an *oral* surgeon
2 — used to describe a medicine that you eat or swallow ▪ They gave him *oral* doses of the antibiotic. ▪ an *oral* contraceptive
3 : spoken rather than written ▪ As part of her *oral* examination, she had to recite the names of all the presidents. ▪ *oral* [=*verbal*] communication skills
– oral•ly *adv* ▪ The vaccine was given to the patient *orally*. ▪ The information was communicated *orally*.

²oral *noun, pl* **orals** [*count*] : a test in which you answer questions by speaking rather than by writing : an oral examination — usually plural ▪ He's preparing for his *orals*.

oral history *noun, pl* ~ **-ries**
1 [*noncount*] : recorded information about the past that you get from talking to people about their experiences, families, etc.
2 [*count*] : a book, article, etc., that is based on oral history ▪ I'm reading an *oral history* of the Great Depression.
– oral historian *noun, pl* ~ **-ans** [*count*]

oral sex *noun* [*noncount*] : sexual activity that involves stimulating someone's genitals with the tongue or mouth

or•ange /ˈɑrɪnʤ, ˈorɪnʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ang•es** [*count, noncount*]
1 : a citrus fruit that is round and that has an orange skin ▪ He peeled the *orange*. ▪ a slice of *orange* — often used before another noun ▪ an *orange* tree/grove/peel ▪ I drink a glass of ***orange juice*** [=juice from an orange] every morning. — see color picture on page C5; see also BLOOD ORANGE
2 : a color between red and yellow that is like the color of fire and carrots — see color picture on page C1
compare apples and/to/with oranges see ¹COMPARE
– orange *adj* ▪ an *orange* flame ▪ He was wearing an *orange* shirt. **– or•ang•ish** /ˈɑrɪnʤɪʃ, ˈorɪnʤɪʃ/ *adj* ▪ the cat's *orangish* fur

orang•u•tan /əˈræŋəˌtæŋ/ *noun, pl* **-tans** [*count*] : a large ape that has very long arms and reddish-brown hair — see picture at APE

ora•tion /əˈreɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *formal* : a formal speech ▪ She made/gave/delivered an *oration* on the value of art in society. ▪ funeral *orations*

or•a•tor /ˈorətɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] *formal* : a person who makes speeches and is very good at making them

or•a•tor•i•cal /ˌorəˈtorɪkəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : of or relating to the skill or activity of giving speeches : of or relating to oratory ▪ *oratorical* skills/techniques

or•a•to•rio /ˌorəˈtorijoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-ri•os** [*count*] : a large piece of music for a group of singers and musicians that is usually about a religious subject

¹or•a•to•ry /ˈorəˌtori, *Brit* ˈɒrətri/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the art or skill of speaking to groups of people in a way that is effective ▪ She is a master of *oratory*. ▪ The President's inauguration speech was a fine demonstration of political *oratory*. — compare ²ORATORY

²oratory *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] : a room or building where people can pray privately — compare ¹ORATORY

orb /ˈoɚb/ *noun, pl* **orbs** [*count*]
1 *literary* : something (such as a planet, the sun, or the moon) that is shaped like a ball ▪ The moon was a silvery *orb*.
2 : a gold ball with a cross on top that is carried by a king or queen on formal occasions as a symbol of power and justice — compare SCEPTER

¹or•bit /ˈoɚbət/ *noun, pl* **-bits**
1 a : the curved path that something (such as a moon or satellite) follows as it goes around something else (such as a planet) [*count*] the *orbit* of the Moon around the Earth ▪ the *orbit* of the Earth around the Sun ▪ an electron's *orbit* around the nucleus of an atom [*noncount*] The satellite was put/launched into *orbit*. ▪ The satellite remains in *orbit*. **b** [*count*] : one complete movement along this path ▪ The space shuttle has completed its second *orbit*.
2 [*singular*] : the area over which or throughout which someone or something has power ▪ These territories remained ***within the orbit of*** the empire for hundreds of years.

²orbit *verb* **-bits**; **-bit•ed**; **-bit•ing** : to travel around (something, such as a planet or moon) in a curved path : to make an orbit around (something) [+ *obj*] The Moon *orbits* the Earth. [*no obj*] The satellites *orbit* at different heights/altitudes. ▪ The Moon *orbits* around the Earth.

¹or•bit•al /ˈoɚbətl/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : relating to an orbit ▪ the planet's *orbital* motion
2 *Brit, of a road* : built around a city ▪ Take the *orbital* road/route/motorway around London.

²orbital *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] *Brit* : a highway that goes around a city : BELTWAY

or•bit•er /ˈoɚbətɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a vehicle or device that travels around a planet or moon in space ▪ a lunar *orbiter*

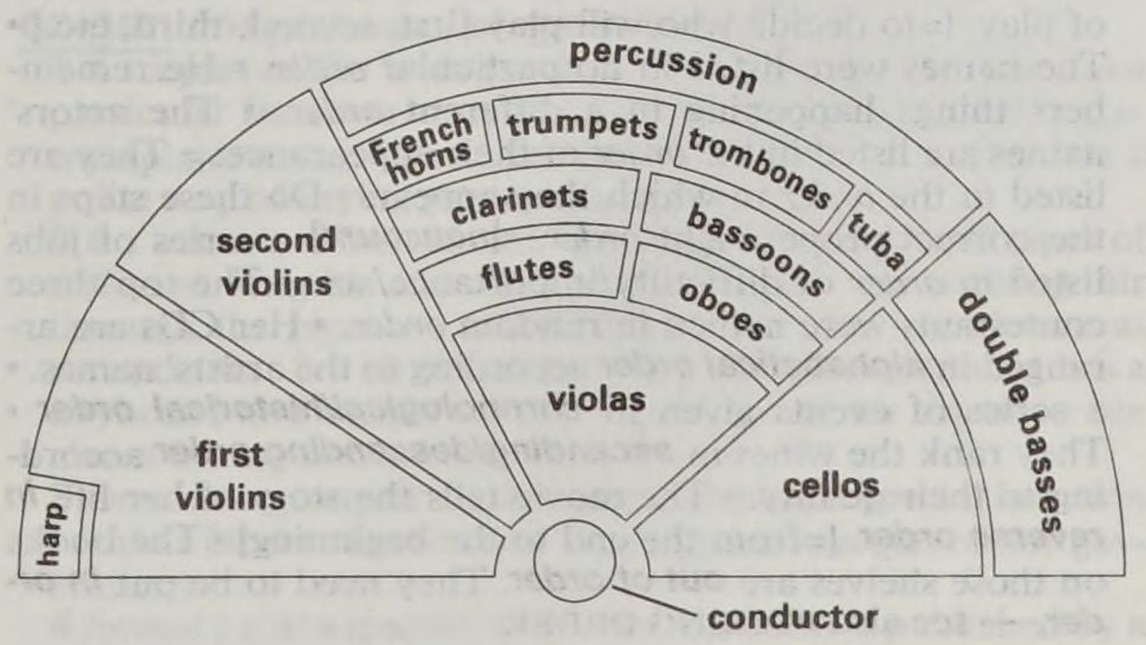
or•ca /ˈoɚkə/ *noun, pl* **-cas** [*count*] : KILLER WHALE

or•chard /ˈoɚʧɚd/ *noun, pl* **-chards** [*count*] : a place where people grow fruit trees ▪ an apple *orchard*

or•ches•tra /ˈoɚkəstrə/ *noun, pl* **-tras**
1 [*count*] : a group of musicians who play usually classical music together and who are led by a conductor ▪ He plays violin in the school *orchestra*. — compare BAND; see also CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
2 ***the orchestra*** *US* : a group of seats in a theater that are close to the stage ▪ Our seats were in *the orchestra* (section). [=(*Brit*) *the stalls*]
– or•ches•tral /oɚˈkɛstrəl/ *adj* ▪ *orchestral* players/music

or•ches•trate /ˈoɚkəˌstreɪt/ *verb* **-trates**; **-trat•ed**; **-trating** [+ *obj*]
1 : to write or change (a piece of music) so that it can be

orchestra



played by an orchestra ▪ He recently *orchestrated* a musical.
2 : to organize or plan (something that is complicated) ▪ She *orchestrated* the entire event. ▪ It's still unclear who was responsible for *orchestrating* the attack. ▪ A strike was *orchestrated* by union members. ▪ a ***carefully orchestrated*** campaign/plot
– **or•ches•tra•tion** /ˌɔɚkəˈstreɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*] ▪ the *orchestration* of the music/attack

or•chid /ˈɔɚkəd/ *noun, pl* **-chids**
1 [*count*] : a plant with flowers that are brightly colored and that have unusual shapes — see color picture on page C6
2 [*noncount*] : a light purple color

or•dain /ɔɚˈdeɪn/ *verb* **-dains**; **-dained**; **-dain•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to officially make (someone) a minister, priest, rabbi, etc. ▪ He was *ordained* (as) a priest. ▪ She is an *ordained* minister.
2 *formal* : to officially establish or order (something) ▪ We the people . . . do *ordain* and establish this constitution . . . —*U.S. Constitution* (1787) ▪ The process was *ordained* by law. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ It's futile to try to avoid what destiny has *ordained*.

or•deal /ɔɚˈdi:l/ *noun, pl* **-deals** [*count*] : an experience that is very unpleasant or difficult — usually singular ▪ Being trapped in the elevator was a harrowing *ordeal* for the shoppers. ▪ the *ordeal* of cancer treatment ▪ I need to find a way to make traveling less of an *ordeal*.

[1]or•der /ˈɔɚdɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ders**
1 : a statement made by a person with authority that tells someone to do something : an instruction or direction that must be obeyed [*count*] The captain was barking out *orders* [=*commands*] to the crew. ▪ That's an *order*, not a request! ▪ Failing to comply with an *order* will result in the loss of your job. ▪ She received an *order* to appear in court. ▪ They can't close down the school without an *order* from the governor's office. ▪ The mayor gave/issued an *order* to evacuate the city. ▪ It's not his fault. He was only following/obeying *orders*. ▪ I'm not taking *orders* from you! You're not my boss. ▪ She left the hospital against her doctor's *orders*. [=her doctor told her not to leave, but she left anyway] ▪ The soldiers were ***under (strict) orders*** to shoot anything that moved. [*noncount*] The city was evacuated ***by order of*** the mayor. — see also CEASE AND DESIST ORDER, COURT ORDER, EXECUTIVE ORDER, GAG ORDER, MARCHING ORDERS, MONEY ORDER, RESTRAINING ORDER, STANDING ORDER, TALL ORDER
2 a : a specific request asking a company to supply goods or products to a customer [*count*] The store received an *order* for 200 roses this morning. ▪ They had trouble filling large customer *orders*. ▪ I placed a book *order* [=an order for a book] yesterday. ▪ I'd like to cancel my *order*. ▪ We offer free shipping on *orders* over 50 dollars. [*noncount*] We don't have that CD in the store right now, but we do have it ***on order***. [=we have ordered it but it has not yet been delivered] ▪ The book is ***on (special) order*** from the publisher. ▪ Dresses in larger sizes are available ***by special order***. — see also BACK ORDER, MAIL ORDER, PURCHASE ORDER **b** [*count*] : a product or a group of products that someone has requested from a company ▪ We shipped your *order* last Thursday.
3 [*count*] **a** : a request for food or drinks made at a restaurant ▪ The waiter still hasn't come to take our *order*. ▪ May I take your *order*? ▪ Please wait in this line to place your *order*. **b** : the food and drinks that someone has requested at a restaurant ▪ Your *order* will be ready any minute now. ▪ Is this *order* for here or to go? [=do you want to eat in this restaurant or take the food somewhere else?] **c** : an amount of food that is served at a restaurant ▪ I'd like a large *order* of French fries, please. ▪ I'd like a hamburger with a ***side order*** of fries. [=I'd like an order of fries with my hamburger]
4 : the particular way that things or events are organized in a list or series [*singular*] Roll the dice to determine the *order* of play. [=to decide who will play first, second, third, etc.] ▪ The names were listed in no particular *order*. ▪ He remembers things happening in a different *order*. ▪ The actors' names are listed in the *order* of their appearance. = They are listed in the *order* in which they appear. ▪ Do these steps in the correct/proper/right *order*. [*noncount*] a series of jobs listed in *order* of difficulty/importance/size ▪ The top three contestants were named in random *order*. ▪ Her CDs are arranged in ***alphabetical order*** according to the artists' names. ▪ a series of events given in ***chronological/historical order*** ▪ They rank the wines in ***ascending/descending order*** according to their quality. ▪ The movie tells the story of her life ***in reverse order***. [=from the end to the beginning] ▪ The books on those shelves are ***out of order***. They need to be put ***in order***. — see also PECKING ORDER
5 [*noncount*] **a** : an organized and proper state or condition ▪ Two weeks after the disaster, he has managed to bring *order* out of (the) chaos. ▪ Hundreds of families are struggling to get/put their lives back ***in order*** after the earthquake. ▪ Get your passport *in order* before you leave for your trip. ▪ All her documents were *in order*. ▪ She makes sure the organization's finances are ***in good order***. ▪ Drivers must keep their trucks clean and ***in (good) working order***. [=working properly] — opposite DISORDER **b** : the state in which people behave properly, follow rules or laws, and respect authority ▪ Our leaders must restore *order* to the city. ▪ the loss of public *order* ▪ Some teachers have trouble maintaining *order* in the classroom. ▪ a lack of *order* and discipline ▪ "*Order*, *order* in the court!" the judge shouted at the unruly men.
6 [*singular*] : a social or political system : the way that a society is organized or controlled ▪ These young activists dared to challenge the established social *order*. ▪ calling for the end of the old *order* ▪ a new world *order* ▪ They seem to have accepted poverty as part of the ***natural order of things***.
7 [*singular*] : a level of quality or excellence ▪ a teacher of the first/highest *order* [=an excellent teacher] ▪ Their customer service is of a higher *order* than that of their competitors.
8 [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a social class — usually plural ▪ servants and other members of ***the lower orders***
9 [*count*] *biology* : a group of related plants or animals that is larger than a family ▪ humans, apes, and other members of the *order* Primates
10 [*count*] : a large organization of people who have similar jobs or interests and who give help to other members ▪ the Masonic *Order* ▪ the Fraternal *Order* of Police
11 [*count*] : a religious organization whose members usually live together and promise to follow special rules and traditions ▪ joining a religious/monastic *order* ▪ an *order* of Catholic missionaries — see also HOLY ORDERS
12 [*count*] : a group of people who have been given an honor or reward by a country's ruler ▪ The Queen made him a Member of the *Order* of the British Empire.
call (something) to order : to say that (something, such as a meeting or court session) should begin ▪ She *called* the meeting *to order* at 8:15. ▪ His lawyer arrived 10 minutes before court was *called to order*.
house in order see [1]HOUSE
in apple-pie order see APPLE PIE
in order : appropriate or desirable ▪ After finishing that three-year project, I decided that a vacation was *in order*. ▪ An apology is *in order*, I believe. — see also [1]ORDER 4 (above), [1]ORDER 5a (above)
in order for : to make it possible for someone or something *to be* or *to do* something ▪ *In order for* companies *to be* successful, they have to sell their products at competitive prices. ▪ We all have to work together *in order for* us *to win*. = We can win, but *in order for* that *to happen*, we all have to work together. ▪ They were told that *in order for* them *to keep* their jobs, they would have to accept a cut in pay.
in order that *formal* — used to say the reason for something ▪ These soldiers gave their lives *in order that* [=*so that*] we may live in a safer and more peaceful world.
in order to : to make it possible for something to happen ▪ *In order to* succeed, companies have to sell their products at competitive prices. ▪ People come here *in order to* give their children a better life. ▪ She has to work two jobs *in order to* [=so that she can] support her family. ▪ I checked my bags twice *in order to* make sure that I had everything.
in short order see [1]SHORT
law and order see LAW
on the order of (*chiefly US*) *or Brit* ***in/of the order of*** : around or about (a specified number) ▪ The government has spent *on the order of* [=*approximately*] ten million dollars on the project. ▪ He receives something *on the order of* 100 e-mails a day.
out of order **1** : not working properly : not able to be used ▪ The elevator's *out of order* [=*broken*] again. We'll have to take the stairs. ▪ The sign on the coffee machine says "*out of order*." **2** : not following the formal rules of a meeting, court session, etc. ▪ At the last town council meeting, her proposal was ruled *out of order* by the mayor. ▪ The mayor ruled her *out of order*. **3** *Brit, informal* : beyond what is reasonable or allowable : not right or appropriate ▪ Your behavior was completely *out of order*. [=*out of line*] ▪ His comments were *out of order*. — see also [1]ORDER 4 (above)
to order : in response to a specific order or request ▪ Everything in this restaurant is cooked *to order*. — see also MADE-TO-ORDER

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– **or•der•less** /ˈoɚdɚləs/ *adj* ▪ a lawless and *orderless* society

[2]order *verb* **-ders; -dered; -der•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a :** to use your authority to tell someone to do something **:** to give an order to someone ▪ They *ordered* everyone out of the house. ▪ The soldiers were *ordered* back to the base. ▪ "Stop! Drop your weapon!" *ordered* the officer. — usually followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ The police officer *ordered* him *to stop* and drop his weapon. ▪ The soldiers were *ordered to return* to the base. ▪ Everyone on the ship was *ordered to put* on their life jackets. ▪ I *order* you *to leave* this instant! **b :** to say that (something) must be done ▪ The court threw out the conviction and *ordered* a new trial. ▪ The judge *ordered* that the charges be dismissed. ▪ He was accused of *ordering* the murder of his wife.

2 : to place an order for (something): such as **a :** to request (something) from a company [+ *obj*] I *ordered* the books from the company's Web site. ▪ The shirt you *ordered* should arrive in the mail in a couple of days. [*no obj*] To *order*, call the number at the bottom of your screen. ▪ *Order* now and receive a free gift! **b :** to request (food or drinks) from a restaurant [+ *obj*] I'd like to *order* a large cheese pizza. ▪ She sat down at the bar and *ordered* a drink. ▪ Would you like me to *order* you a drink? = Would you like me to *order* a drink for you? ▪ I had the fish and he *ordered* the steak. ▪ Do you know what you're going to *order*? [*no obj*] "Are you ready to *order*?" the waiter asked. ▪ We've already *ordered*.

3 [+ *obj*] **:** to organize (things) in a particular list or series **:** to put things in a particular order or position ▪ The books are *ordered* [=*arranged*] alphabetically by author. — see also RE-ORDER

just what the doctor ordered see [1]DOCTOR

order around *or chiefly Brit* ***order about*** [*phrasal verb*] ***order (someone) around/about*** **:** to give orders to (someone) **:** to tell (someone) what to do ▪ He was tired of being *ordered* [=*bossed*] *around* by his parents and teachers. ▪ You can't just come in here and start *ordering* people *around*.

– **or•der•able** /ˈoɚdɚɚbəl/ *adj* ▪ an *orderable* book – **or•der•er** /ˈoɚdɚɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

order book *noun, pl* **~ books** [*count*] **:** a book that shows the number of orders that a company has received from its customers — often used figuratively ▪ The company is starting the year with a full *order book*. [=it has many orders for its products]

or•dered /ˈoɚdɚd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] **:** carefully organized or controlled ▪ an *ordered* sequence of events ▪ He leads an *ordered* [=*well-ordered*, *orderly*] life in the suburbs. — opposite DISORDERED

order form *noun, pl* **~ forms** [*count*] **:** a form that customers can use to order products from a company

[1]or•der•ly /ˈoɚdɚli/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : arranged or organized in a logical or regular way ▪ Try to keep your desk neat and *orderly*. [=*tidy*] ▪ an *orderly* arrangement of pictures ▪ She sorted the information into *orderly* categories.

2 : peaceful or well-behaved ▪ Outside the theater, an *orderly* line of people waited to buy tickets. ▪ an *orderly* crowd of protesters ▪ Please exit the building ***in an orderly fashion***. — opposite DISORDERLY

– **or•der•li•ness** /ˈoɚdɚlinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

[2]orderly *noun, pl* **-lies** [*count*]

1 : a person who works in a hospital and does various jobs (such as moving patients or cleaning)

2 : a soldier who performs various services (such as carrying messages) for a superior officer

order of business *noun* [*singular*] **:** a job that must be done or an issue that must be discussed ▪ The first *order of business* at the committee meeting was the budget.

order of magnitude *noun, pl* **orders of magnitude** [*count*] **:** a range of numbers or sizes that goes from a particular number or size to 10 times larger or 10 times smaller ▪ These molecules are several *orders of magnitude* smaller than a grain of sand. ▪ Donations to the organization increased by an *order of magnitude* [=they became 10 times greater] after the earthquake. — often used figuratively ▪ two problems of the same *order of magnitude* [=two problems that are equally important]

order of the day *noun*

the order of the day **:** a characteristic or activity that is common during a particular period of time or in a particular situation ▪ Change was very much *the order of the day* in that time in our country's history. ▪ Wasteful government spending seems to be *the order of the day*. ▪ At the resort's outdoor café, bathing suits and sandals are *the order of the day*. [=they are popular and appropriate]

order paper *noun, pl* **~ -pers** [*count*] *Brit* **:** a list of the subjects that will be discussed in Parliament on a particular day ▪ The issue did not appear on the *order paper* as expected. ▪ parliamentary *order papers*

or•di•nal number /ˈoɚdənəl-/ *noun, pl* **~ -bers** [*count*] **:** a number (such as first, fifth, or 22nd) that is used to show the position of someone or something in a series — compare CARDINAL NUMBER

or•di•nance /ˈoɚdənəns/ *noun, pl* **-nanc•es** *US* **:** a law or regulation made by a city or town government [*count*] The town has passed a zoning *ordinance* limiting construction. [*noncount*] (*formal*) Gambling is prohibited by local *ordinance*. ***synonyms*** see LAW

or•di•nar•i•ly /ˌoɚdəˈnerəli, *Brit* ˈɔːdənrəli/ *adv* — used to describe the way things are normally or usually done ▪ *Ordinarily*, we don't accept this as a valid form of identification, but we'll accept it this time. ▪ It *ordinarily* [=*usually*] takes two people to operate the machine. ▪ She's not *ordinarily* in on Wednesdays, but she's here today.

[1]or•di•nary /ˈoɚdəˌneri, *Brit* ˈɔːdənri/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 *always used before a noun* **:** normal or usual **:** not unusual, different, or special ▪ Today was just another *ordinary* [=*routine*] day at work. ▪ They've had the *ordinary* problems associated with starting a new business. ▪ the *ordinary* [=*regular*] language/speech we use every day ▪ My wife thought our guide was strange, but he seemed perfectly *ordinary* to me. ▪ *ordinary* people [=people who are not famous, rich, etc.] ▪ It was ***no ordinary*** day. [=it was a special or unusual day]

2 *disapproving* **:** neither very good nor very bad **:** not very impressive ▪ The quality of her work has been pretty *ordinary*. [=*average*] ▪ The meal was *ordinary* and uninspired.

in the ordinary way *Brit* **:** in the normal or usual way **:** as something is always done ▪ They had their morning coffee *in the ordinary way*, reading the paper and not speaking until they were finished.

– **or•di•nar•i•ness** /ˈoɚdəˌnerinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *ordinariness* of daily life

[2]ordinary *noun*

out of the ordinary **:** unusual, different, or strange **:** not what is considered to be normal ▪ What happened is nothing *out of the ordinary*. ▪ They didn't do anything that was *out of the ordinary*. ▪ Her taste is a bit *out of the ordinary*.

Ordinary level *noun, pl* **~ -els** [*count*] *Brit* **:** O LEVEL

or•di•na•tion /ˌoɚdəˈneɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** **:** the official act or process of making someone a priest, minister, etc. [*noncount*] He is a candidate for *ordination*. [*count*] After his *ordination*, he will be assigned to a local parish.

ord•nance /ˈoɚdnəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical*

1 : military supplies including weapons, ammunition, armor, vehicles, etc. ▪ The field was full of unexploded *ordnance*. [=bombs that had not exploded] ▪ an *ordnance* facility

2 : large, heavy guns on wheels **:** ARTILLERY ▪ The company was outfitted with 50-millimeter *ordnance*. ▪ a military *ordnance* company

or•dure /ˈoɚʤɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly Brit, formal* **:** solid waste matter that is released from the body **:** EXCREMENT

ore /ˈoɚ/ *noun, pl* **ores** **:** rocks, earth, etc., from which a valuable metal can be taken [*noncount*] The mine is an important producer of iron *ore*. [*count*] The company extracts metals from *ores*.

oreg•a•no /əˈrɛgənoʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** an herb that has green leaves with a sweet smell which are used in cooking ▪ The recipe calls for a tablespoon of chopped *oregano*. — see color picture on page C6

or•gan /ˈoɚgən/ *noun, pl* **-gans** [*count*]

1 a : a part of the body (such as the heart or liver) that has a particular function ▪ internal *organs* ▪ vital *organs* ▪ an *organ* transplant/donor — see also SENSE ORGAN **b** — used as a polite way of saying *penis* ▪ the male *organ*

2 a : a musical instrument that has a keyboard and pipes of different lengths and that makes sound by pushing air through the pipes — called also *pipe organ*; see picture at KEYBOARD **b :** an electronic musical instrument that has a keyboard and makes sounds like those of an organ — see also BARREL ORGAN, MOUTH ORGAN

3 *formal* **:** a group or organization that has a special function within a larger organization ▪ the legislative *organ* of our government

4 *formal* **:** a newspaper, magazine, etc., that is published by a

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particular group and that gives the news and opinions of that group ▪ The magazine functions as the official *organ* of the tobacco industry. ▪ a ***house organ*** [=a publication that expresses the opinions of a business or group]

or·gan–grind·er /ˈoəgənˌgraɪndəɹ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a musician who plays a barrel organ in a public place for money

or·gan·ic /oəˈgænɪk/ *adj*

1 a *of food* : grown or made without the use of artificial chemicals ▪ *organic* vegetables ▪ Is this broccoli ***certified organic***? [=has the government said that it was grown without the use of artificial chemicals?] **b** : not using artificial chemicals ▪ *organic* farming/methods ▪ She's an *organic* gardener.

2 : of, relating to, or obtained from living things ▪ *organic* materials/matter/substances ▪ *organic* fertilizers — opposite INORGANIC

3 [*more ~; most ~*] **a** : having different parts that work together well ▪ He thinks of the city not as a collection of different neighborhoods but as an *organic* whole. **b** : forming an important part of something ▪ This neighborhood is an *organic* part of the city.

4 [*more ~; most ~*] : happening or developing in a slow and natural way ▪ The company has gone through a period of steady *organic* growth in recent years.

5 [*more ~; most ~*] *somewhat formal* : having a curving form similar to the shapes found in nature ▪ I like the *organic* lines of his architecture. ▪ His architecture is very *organic*.

6 *medical* : of or relating to the organs of the body ▪ an *organic* disease ▪ *organic* illness

– **or·gan·i·cal·ly** /oəˈgænɪkli/ *adv* ▪ This farm specializes in *organically* grown food. ▪ Her opinions grew *organically* from her observations.

organic chemistry *noun* [*noncount*] : a branch of chemistry that is concerned with carbon and especially carbon compounds which are found in living things — compare INORGANIC CHEMISTRY

or·gan·ism /ˈoəgəˌnɪzəm/ *noun, pl* **-isms** [*count*]

1 : an individual living thing ▪ a microscopic *organism* ▪ A human being is a complex *organism*. — see also MICROORGANISM

2 : a system with many parts that depend on each other and work together — usually singular ▪ He thinks of the city as a complex social/political/economic *organism*.

or·gan·ist /ˈoəgənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] *music* : a person who plays an organ ▪ a church *organist*

or·ga·ni·za·tion *also Brit* **or·ga·ni·sa·tion** /ˌoəgənəˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌɔːgəˌnaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] : a company, business, club, etc., that is formed for a particular purpose ▪ She is the leader of an international *organization* devoted to the protection of natural resources. ▪ religious *organizations* ▪ a charitable *organization*

2 [*noncount*] **a** : the act or process of putting the different parts of something in a certain order so that they can be found or used easily ▪ He has been working on the *organization* of his notes into an outline. **b** : the act or process of planning and arranging the different parts of an event or activity ▪ She is responsible for the *organization* of the party.

3 [*noncount*] : the way in which the different parts of something (such as a company) are arranged ▪ The new president plans to make changes to the company's *organization*.

4 [*noncount*] : the quality of being arranged in a way that is sensible and useful ▪ You have a lot of good ideas in this paper, but there's no *organization* to your thoughts.

– **or·ga·ni·za·tion·al** *also Brit* **or·ga·ni·sa·tion·al** /ˌoəgənəˈzeɪʃənl, *Brit* ˌɔːgəˌnaɪˈzeɪʃənl/ *adj* ▪ She has strong *organizational* skills. [=she is very skillful at arranging things in a sensible and useful way] ▪ an ***organizational chart*** [=a chart that shows how all of the jobs in a large company relate to each other]

or·ga·nize *also Brit* **or·ga·nise** /ˈoəgəˌnaɪz/ *verb* **-niz·es; -nized; -niz·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to arrange and plan (an event or activity) ▪ They hired a professional to help *organize* their wedding. ▪ We are *organizing* a fund-raiser.

2 : to arrange or order things so that they can be found or used easily and quickly : to put things into a particular arrangement or order [+ *obj*] His office is a mess. He needs someone to help him *organize* his work/papers. ▪ She took a moment to *organize* [=*collect*] her thoughts before she responded. ▪ The book is *organized* around a central theme. [=the action, plot, characters, etc., of the book are guided by a central theme] ▪ I spent some time *organizing* my closet last weekend. [*no obj*] You need to learn to *organize* better.

3 a : to gather (people) into a group that will work on something together [+ *obj*] She *organized* people to work for social justice. ▪ The players were *organized* into separate teams. [*no obj*] He encouraged them to *organize* for social justice. **b** : to form a labor union [*no obj*] The company has tried to prevent the workers from *organizing*. [+ *obj*] He tried to *organize* [=*unionize*] the workers in the factory.

– **or·ga·niz·er** *also Brit* **or·ga·nis·er** /ˈoəgəˌnaɪzəɹ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ an events *organizer* ▪ She's a skillful *organizer*. ▪ a labor/union/political *organizer*

organized *also Brit* **organised** *adj*

1 a : arranged into a formal group with leaders and with rules for doing or planning things ▪ *organized* baseball [=the sport of baseball and its teams, members, leaders, and rules] ▪ *organized* religion [=religion that has large numbers of followers and a set of rules that must be followed] ▪ ***organized crime*** [=a large group of professional criminals who work as part of a powerful and secret organization] **b** : arranged into or belonging to a labor union ▪ *organized* mine workers ▪ ***organized labor*** [=labor unions as a group]

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : arranged or planned in a particular way ▪ They ran a well-*organized* political campaign. ▪ a poorly *organized* meeting

3 [*more ~; most ~*] **a** : having things arranged in a neat and effective way ▪ an *organized* office ▪ His office is a mess. He needs to ***get organized***. [=he needs to organize his office] **b** : able to keep things arranged in a neat or effective way ▪ She's a very *organized* person. — opposite DISORGANIZED

or·gasm /ˈoəˌgæzəm/ *noun, pl* **-gasms** : the point during sexual activity when sexual pleasure is strongest [*noncount*] achieve/experience/reach *orgasm* [*count*] have an *orgasm*

or·gas·mic /oəˈgæzmɪk/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* : of or relating to an orgasm ▪ *orgasmic* dysfunction

2 : very exciting or enjoyable ▪ White-water rafting was an *orgasmic* experience.

or·gy /ˈoəʤi/ *noun, pl* **-gies** [*count*]

1 : a wild party and especially one in which many people have sex together ▪ a drunken *orgy*

2 : something that is done too much and in a wild way ▪ an eating *orgy* — often + *of* ▪ The troops took part in an *orgy of* destruction. ▪ an *orgy of* violence and crime

ori·ent /ˈoriˌɛnt/ *verb* **-ents; -ent·ed; -ent·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to change or create (something, such as a book or a film) so that it appeals to a particular group of people or is suitable for a particular group of people — often + *to* or *toward* ▪ They are planning to *orient* the movie *toward* teenagers. [=to make the movie interesting to teenagers] ▪ The authors *oriented* the text *to/toward* high-school students. = The text is *oriented toward* high-school students.

2 : to direct (someone) toward a goal ▪ The program is intended to *orient* students toward a career in medicine.

3 : to place (something) in a particular position or direction ▪ *Orient* the map so that north is at the top. ▪ The house is *oriented* so that it faces west.

4 : to help (someone) become familiar with a new situation, place, etc. ▪ The guide is intended to *orient* travelers (to their surroundings). ▪ The hikers stopped to ***orient themselves*** [=to find out where they were] by looking at their map. ▪ She needs time to *orient herself* to her new job. [=to become familiar with her new job] — compare DISORIENT

Ori·ent /ˈorijənt/ *noun*

the Orient *old-fashioned* : the countries of eastern Asia ▪ a plant that grows in *the Orient* ▪ We're planning a trip to *the Orient*. — compare OCCIDENT

ori·en·tal *or* **Ori·en·tal** /ˌoriˈɛntl/ *adj, old-fashioned* : of, relating to, or from Asia and especially eastern Asia ▪ I like *oriental* food. ▪ *oriental* art ✧ The adjective *Oriental* is now often considered offensive when it is used to describe a person. The adjective *Asian* should be used instead.

Oriental *noun, pl* **-tals** [*count*] *old-fashioned* + *offensive* : a person from eastern Asia

ori·en·tal·ist /ˌoriˈɛntəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : a person who studies Asian countries, languages, etc.

Oriental rug *noun, pl* **~ rugs** [*count*] : a rug or carpet that is made in central or southern Asia and that usually has very fancy designs on it

ori·en·tate /ˈorijənˌteɪt/ *verb* **-tates; -tat·ed; -tat·ing** [+ *obj*] *chiefly Brit* : ORIENT ▪ a program that helps to *orientate*

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new students ▪ She needs to ***orientate herself*** to her new job.

orientated *adj, chiefly Brit* : ORIENTED

ori•en•ta•tion /ˌorijənˈteɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count, noncount*] **a** : a person's feelings, interests, and beliefs ▪ his political/religious/spiritual *orientation* **b** : SEXUAL ORIENTATION ▪ patients identifying themselves as homosexual or bisexual in *orientation* ▪ He makes no secret of his *orientation*.

2 : a main interest, quality, or goal [*count*] The organization has a decidedly conservative *orientation*. [*noncount*] Her later works were more introspective in *orientation*.

3 : the process of giving people training and information about a new job, situation, etc. [*noncount*] These materials are used for the *orientation* of new employees. ▪ an *orientation* meeting/session ▪ The weekend before the semester begins is the ***freshman orientation*** period. [=the time when new students start to become familiar with a college] [*count*] New students need to go through a short *orientation* before they begin classes.

4 [*count*] : the position or direction of something ▪ They had to adjust the antenna's *orientation* in order to receive a clear signal. ▪ The valley has a north-south *orientation*. [=the valley runs from north to south]

oriented *adj*

1 : interested in a particular thing, activity, etc. ▪ politically *oriented* journalists [=journalists who are interested in politics] ▪ The audience was academically *oriented*.

2 : designed to appeal to a certain kind of people ▪ We went to a family-*oriented* amusement park. [=an amusement park designed to appeal to families]

ori•en•teer•ing /ˌorijənˈtirɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a sport in which people use a map and a compass to travel along a route they do not know as quickly as possible

or•i•fice /ˈorəfəs/ *noun, pl* **-fic•es** [*count*] *formal* : a hole or opening and especially one in your body (such as your mouth, ear, nostril, etc.) ▪ a bodily *orifice*

ori•ga•mi /ˌorəˈgɑːmi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the Japanese art of folding paper into shapes that look like birds, animals, etc.

or•i•gin /ˈorədʒən/ *noun, pl* **-gins**

1 : the point or place where something begins or is created : the source or cause of something [*count*] The *origin* of this custom/tradition is not known. = The *origins* of this custom/tradition are not known. [=no one knows how this custom/tradition started] ▪ What is the *origin* [=*etymology*] of that word? ▪ The school ***had its origin*** [=the school was created] with a large gift from a donor. ▪ The story *had its origin* [=*originated*] in the 19th century. [*noncount*] The English word "rendezvous" is French ***in origin***. [=the English word comes from French] ▪ The infection was bacterial *in origin*. [=the infection was caused by bacteria] ▪ The wine is named for its ***place of origin***. [=the place where it was made/created] ▪ The game is ***of recent origin***. [=the game was created recently] ▪ a disease ***of unknown origin*** [=a disease whose origin is not known]

2 : the place, social situation, or type of family that a person comes from [*noncount*] She is of French *origin*. [=*ancestry*] ▪ What is his ***country of origin***? [=what country does he come from?] [*count*] Her ethnic *origins* are French. ▪ He comes from ***humble origins***. [=he comes from a family that did not have high social status or much money]

[1]orig•i•nal /əˈrɪdʒənl/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* : happening or existing first or at the beginning ▪ Their *original* idea was to fix their old car, but they decided to buy a new one instead. ▪ The word's *original* meaning was very different from its current meaning. ▪ That piece of furniture is still in its *original* condition. [=the furniture is in the same condition it was in when we first bought it] ▪ We were the *original* [=*first*] owners of that van.

2 *always used before a noun* : made or produced first : not a copy, translation, etc. ▪ I gave her a copy and kept the *original* document myself. ▪ The book has been translated into English from the *original* Spanish.

3 [*more ~; most ~*] **a** : not like others : new, different, and appealing ▪ The concept is very *original*. ▪ The car has a highly *original* design. **b** : able to think of or make new and creative things ▪ She has a very *original* and creative mind. ▪ He is admired as an *original* American composer.

[2]original *noun, pl* **-nals**

1 [*count*] : a document, film, painting, etc., which is created by someone and from which a copy or translation is made ▪ I gave her a copy of the report and kept the *original*. ▪ This isn't a reprint, it's an *original*.

2 [*singular*] : a person who is different from other people in an appealing or interesting way ▪ Compared to other actresses of her generation, she is a true *original*.

in the original : in the language used by the original writer ▪ We read Homer *in the original*, not in translation. [=we read the original words that Homer wrote in ancient Greek]

orig•i•nal•i•ty /əˌrɪdʒəˈnæləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the quality of being new and different in a good and appealing way ▪ Critics have praised the movie's startling *originality*. ▪ I was amazed by the *originality* of her ideas. ▪ an artist of great *originality* [=*creativity*]

orig•i•nal•ly /əˈrɪdʒənl̩i/ *adv*

1 : in the beginning : when something first happened or began ▪ That van *originally* belonged to us. ▪ The building was *originally* a school. ▪ They *originally* planned to fix their old car, but they decided to buy a new one instead. ▪ *Originally*, the word had a very different meaning from its current meaning. ▪ a New Yorker who is *originally* from Mexico

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : in a new, fresh, or original way ▪ She has shown an ability to think *originally* about ways to improve the company.

original sin *noun* [*noncount*] : the belief taught in Christianity that people will naturally do bad or evil things

orig•i•nate /əˈrɪdʒəˌneɪt/ *verb* **-nates**; **-nat•ed**; **-nat•ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to begin to exist : to be produced or created ▪ No one knows when or where the idea (first) *originated*. ▪ These stories *originated* during earlier times. ▪ The book *originated* as/from a series of lectures. ▪ The sound seemed to *originate* from outside the room. ▪ The custom is believed to have *originated* in the western U.S. ▪ That idea did not ***originate with*** him. [=he was not the first person to have that idea]

2 [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to exist : to produce or create (something) ▪ He did not *originate* the idea. ▪ The policy was *originated* by the previous administration.

– **orig•i•na•tor** /əˈrɪdʒəˌneɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]

ori•ole /ˈoriˌoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-oles** [*count*]

1 : a colorful North American bird that has an orange or yellow body with black wings

2 : a European bird ✧ The male European oriole has a bright yellow body and black wings.

Ori•on /əˈrajən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a group of stars in the sky that looks like a hunter with a line of three bright stars for a belt ✧ This group of stars is named for a famous hunter in stories from Greek mythology.

[1]or•na•ment /ˈoɚnəmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**

1 [*count*] : a small, fancy object that is put on something else to make it more attractive ▪ She wore a hair *ornament*. ▪ (*US*) the ***hood ornament*** on a car [=a small metal figure on the front edge of a car's hood] ▪ ***Christmas ornaments*** [=small balls, figures, etc., that are hung on a Christmas tree for decoration]

2 [*noncount*] *formal* : a way to make something look more attractive and less plain ▪ A satin bow was used for *ornament*. [=*decoration*] ▪ The columns are there purely as *ornament*—they have no structural function.

[2]ornament *verb* **-ments**; **-ment•ed**; **-ment•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to make (something) more attractive by adding small objects to it : DECORATE ▪ flower patterns used to *ornament* boxes — usually used as *(be) ornamented* ▪ a dress *ornamented* with pearls ▪ elaborately/highly *ornamented* ceilings

[1]or•na•men•tal /ˌoɚnəˈmɛntl̩/ *adj* : used to make something more attractive : used for decoration ▪ *ornamental* vases ▪ The garden has many *ornamental* shrubs. ▪ The columns are purely *ornamental*. [=*decorative*]

– **or•na•men•tal•ly** *adv*

[2]ornamental *noun, pl* **-tals** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a plant that is grown for its beauty rather than for its fruit, wood, etc. : an ornamental plant ▪ The garden has many beautiful *ornamentals*.

or•na•men•ta•tion /ˌoɚnəmənˈteɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *somewhat formal* : something that is added to make something else more attractive ▪ A bright ribbon was used for *ornamentation*. ▪ a ballroom with elaborate *ornamentation*

or•nate /oɚˈneɪt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : covered with decorations : covered with fancy patterns and shapes ▪ *ornate* silver candlesticks ▪ She doesn't like *ornate* jewelry. — opposite PLAIN

2 : using many fancy words ▪ an *ornate* writing style ▪ *ornate* prose

– **or•nate•ly** *adv* ▪ *ornately* carved staircases – **or•nate•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

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or•nery /'oɚnəri/ *adj* **or•neri•er**; **-est** [*or more ~; most ~*] *US, informal + often humorous*
1 : easily annoyed or angered ▪ I'm getting more and more *ornery* in my old age.
2 : difficult to deal with or control ▪ an *ornery* mule
– **or•neri•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She has a reputation for *orneriness*. [=people know that she gets annoyed easily]

or•ni•thol•o•gy /ˌoɚnə'θɑ:lədʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a branch of science that deals with the study of birds
– **or•ni•tho•log•i•cal** /ˌoɚnəθə'lɑ:dʒɪkəl/ *adj* – **or•ni•thol•o•gist** /ˌoɚnə'θɑ:lədʒɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*]

[1]or•phan /'oɚfən/ *noun, pl* **-phans** [*count*] : a child whose parents are dead ▪ He was left an *orphan* [=he became an orphan] when his parents died in a car accident. — sometimes used of animals ▪ The baby raccoon were *orphans*.
– **orphan** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ an *orphan* boy/girl

[2]orphan *verb* **-phans**; **-phaned**; **-phan•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (a child) to become an orphan — usually used as *(be) orphaned* ▪ He *was orphaned* as a young boy when his parents died in a car accident. ▪ Thousands of children *were orphaned* by the war. — sometimes used of animals ▪ *orphaned* puppies — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The second volume of the two-volume set *was orphaned* when we lost the first volume.

or•phan•age /'oɚfənɪdʒ/ *noun, pl* **-ag•es** [*count*] : a place where children whose parents have died can live and be cared for : a home for orphans ▪ After the death of his parents, he was raised in an *orphanage*.

or•tho•don•tia /ˌoɚθə'dɑ:nʃijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US, technical* : treatment and devices used on teeth to make them grow straight ▪ We took out a loan to pay for our son's *orthodontia*.

or•tho•don•tics /ˌoɚθə'dɑ:ntɪks/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a branch of dentistry that deals with helping teeth to grow straight
– **or•tho•don•tic** /ˌoɚθə'dɑ:ntɪk/ *adj* ▪ He underwent *orthodontic* treatment. ▪ an *orthodontic* device – **or•tho•don•tist** /ˌoɚθə'dɑ:ntɪst/ *noun, pl* **-tists** [*count*] ▪ The *orthodontist* put braces on my teeth.

or•tho•dox /'oɚθəˌdɑ:ks/ *adj*
1 [*more ~; most ~*] : accepted as true or correct by most people : supporting or believing what most people think is true : CONVENTIONAL ▪ He took an *orthodox* approach to the problem. ▪ *orthodox* thinking ▪ *orthodox* political views ▪ She believes in the benefits of both *orthodox* medicine and alternative medicine. — opposite UNORTHODOX
2 a *or* ***Orthodox*** : accepting and closely following the traditional beliefs and customs of a religion ▪ *Orthodox* Jews ▪ He is a very *orthodox* Muslim. **b** ***Orthodox*** : of or relating to the Orthodox Church ▪ I attend an Eastern *Orthodox* church. ▪ My grandmother is Russian *Orthodox*.

Orthodox Church *noun*
the Orthodox Church : a branch of the Christian church that has members mainly in the area from eastern Europe to eastern Africa ▪ *the* Eastern *Orthodox Church* ▪ *the* Russian/Greek/Ethiopian *Orthodox Church*

or•tho•doxy /'oɚθəˌdɑ:ksi/ *noun, pl* **-dox•ies** *formal*
1 : a belief or a way of thinking that is accepted as true or correct [*noncount*] I was surprised by the *orthodoxy* of her political views. [*count*] He rejected the *orthodoxies* of the scientific establishment.
2 ***Orthodoxy*** [*noncount*] : the beliefs, practices, and institution of the Orthodox Church

or•thog•ra•phy /oɚ'θɑ:grəfi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : the way in which the words of a language are spelled ▪ the rules of English *orthography* [=*spelling*]
– **or•tho•graph•ic** /ˌoɚθə'græfɪk/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *orthographic* reforms

or•tho•pe•dic (*chiefly US*) *also chiefly Brit* **or•tho•pae•dic** /ˌoɚθə'pi:dɪk/ *adj, medical*
1 : used in the treatment of illnesses and injuries that affect bones and muscles ▪ *orthopedic* medicine ▪ an *orthopedic* surgeon ▪ She was wearing *orthopedic* shoes.
2 : affecting bones or muscles ▪ *orthopedic* injuries

or•tho•pe•dics (*chiefly US*) *also chiefly Brit* **or•tho•pae•dics** /ˌoɚθə'pi:dɪks/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a branch of medicine that tries to prevent and correct problems that affect bones and muscles
– **or•tho•pe•dist** (*chiefly US*) *also chiefly Brit* **or•tho•pae•dist** /ˌoɚθə'pi:dɪst/ *noun, pl* **-dists** [*count*]

[1]-ory *noun suffix* : a place for ▪ observat*ory* ▪ reformat*ory*

[2]-ory *adj suffix* : of, relating to, or doing ▪ regulat*ory* [=regulating] ▪ explanat*ory* [=explaining]

OS *abbr, computers* operating system

Os•car /'ɑ:skɚ/ *trademark* — used for a small statue that is awarded by part of the American film industry to the best actors, movies, directors, etc., of the year

os•cil•late /'ɑ:səˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates**; **-lat•ed**; **-lat•ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to move in one direction and then back again many times ▪ The fan was *oscillating*. [=was turning to the right, then to the left, then to the right, etc.] ▪ Stock prices have continued to *oscillate*. [=to go up and down] ▪ an *oscillating* fan
2 *formal* : to keep changing from one belief, feeling, condition, etc., to an opposite one — usually + *between* ▪ The mood of voters has *oscillated between* optimism and pessimism. ▪ The weather *oscillated between* brutal cold and searing heat.
3 *technical* : to change in strength or direction regularly ▪ an *oscillating* electric current ▪ *oscillating* radio waves ▪ stars that *oscillate* in brightness [=that get brighter, then fainter, then brighter, etc.]

os•cil•la•tion /ˌɑ:sə'leɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 : the act of regularly moving from one position to another and back to the original position [*noncount*] the continued *oscillation* of the fan [*count*] the fan's *oscillations*
2 *somewhat formal* : a frequent change from one state, position, or amount to another [*noncount*] the continual *oscillation* [=(more commonly) *fluctuation*] of stock prices [*count*] price/temperature *oscillations*
3 *somewhat formal* : the act of changing from one belief, feeling, etc., to an opposite one — usually + *between* [*noncount*] There has been *oscillation between* optimism and pessimism among voters. [*count*] His friends were alarmed by his *oscillations* [=(less formally) *swings*] *between* hope and despair.
4 [*count*] *technical* : a single movement from one position or state to another ▪ Each *oscillation* of the pendulum represents one second.

os•mo•sis /ɑz'moʊsəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 *biology* : the process that causes a liquid (especially water) to pass through the wall of a living cell
2 : an ability to learn and understand things gradually without much effort ▪ She seems to learn foreign languages by/through *osmosis*.

os•prey /'ɑ:spri, 'ɑ:ˌspreɪ/ *noun, pl* **-preys** [*count*] : a large bird that eats fish

os•si•fy /'ɑ:səˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy•ing**
1 *formal + disapproving* : to become or to cause something to become unable to change [*no obj*] Her opinions have *ossified*. [+ *obj*] an *ossified* social hierarchy ▪ *ossified* ideologies
2 *technical* : to become or to cause something to become hard like bone [*no obj*] The cartilage will *ossify*, becoming bone. [+ *obj*] a disease that *ossifies* the joints
– **os•si•fi•ca•tion** /ˌɑ:səfə'keɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ intellectual *ossification* ▪ *ossification* of the cartilage

os•ten•si•ble /ɑ'stɛnsəbəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : seeming or said to be true or real but very possibly not true or real ▪ The *ostensible* reason for his visit was to see an old friend. [=he said the reason was to see an old friend, but the real reason may have been something different] ▪ The *ostensible* [=*apparent*] purpose of the article is to encourage young adults to vote.
– **os•ten•si•bly** /ɑ'stɛnsəbli/ *adv* ▪ The story is *ostensibly* fiction, but some of the events are based on real life. ▪ *Ostensibly*, the reason for his visit was to see an old friend.

os•ten•ta•tion /ˌɑ:stən'teɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *disapproving* : an unnecessary display of wealth, knowledge, etc., that is done to attract attention, admiration, or envy ▪ The actress avoids *ostentation*. She owns a small house and drives an inexpensive car. ▪ She dressed stylishly without *ostentation*. [=she dressed in a way that was simple yet attractive] ▪ He writes simply and clearly and without *ostentation*.

os•ten•ta•tious /ˌɑ:stən'teɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *disapproving* : displaying wealth, knowledge, etc., in a way that is meant to attract attention, admiration, or envy ▪ the *ostentatious* [=very large and expensive] summer homes of the rich ▪ the *ostentatious* [=*pretentious*] use of foreign phrases in conversation ▪ an *ostentatious* display of knowledge
– **os•ten•ta•tious•ly** *adv* ▪ He dresses *ostentatiously*. ▪ Her ring had an *ostentatiously* large diamond.

os•teo•ar•thri•tis /ˌɑ:stijowɑɚ'θraɪtəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a disease that causes the joints to become very painful and stiff

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os•te•op•a•thy /ˌɑːstiˈɑːpəθi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a method of treating people who are sick or in pain by pushing and moving bones and muscles
– **os•teo•path** /ˈɑːstijəˌpæθ/ *noun, pl* **-paths** [*count*] ▪ He is a trained *osteopath*. – **os•teo•path•ic** /ˌɑːstijəˈpæθɪk/ *adj* ▪ *osteopathic* treatment – **os•teo•path•i•cal•ly** /ˌɑːstijəˈpæθɪkli/ *adv*

os•te•o•po•ro•sis /ˌɑːstijoʊpəˈroʊsəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a condition in which the bones become weak and break easily

os•tra•cize *also Brit* **os•tra•cise** /ˈɑːstrəˌsaɪz/ *verb* **-ciz•es**; **-cized**; **-ciz•ing** [+ *obj*] : to not allow (someone) to be included in a group : to exclude (someone) from a group ▪ She was *ostracized* from/by the scientific community for many years because of her radical political beliefs. ▪ The other girls *ostracized* her because of the way she dressed.
– **os•tra•cism** /ˈɑːstrəˌsɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She suffered years of *ostracism* from the scientific community.

os•trich /ˈɑːstrɪtʃ/ *noun, pl* **-trich•es** [*count*] : a very large African bird that runs very fast but cannot fly



ostrich

OT *abbr* **1** occupational therapist; occupational therapy **2** ***O.T.*** Old Testament **3** ***O.T.*** *US* overtime ▪ He scored a goal in *O.T.* to win the game.

OTC *abbr* over-the-counter

[1]oth•er /ˈʌðɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun* **1** — used to refer to the one person or thing that remains or that has not been mentioned ▪ What's in your *other* hand? ▪ "Is this the ear that hurts?" "No, it's my *other* ear." ▪ My *other* son is a doctor. ▪ Their *other* car is a lot smaller than this one. ▪ I didn't like this novel as much as the *other* one. ▪ Do you want the *other* half of my bagel? — see also OTHER HALF **2** — used to refer to all the members of a group except the person or thing that has already been mentioned ▪ "Is this the last copy?" "Yes, all the *other* copies have been sold." ▪ She was taller than the *other* girls in her class. [=she was taller than the rest of the girls in her class] ▪ One of her daughters lives in Texas and her two *other* daughters live in California. ▪ This car got better gas mileage than the *other* ones we tested. **3** : in addition to the person or thing that has already been mentioned ▪ Does anyone have any *other* [=*additional*, *more*] ideas? ▪ These and *other* issues will be discussed at the next meeting. ▪ The driver's wife and two *other* passengers were injured in the accident. ▪ Leaders from China, Russia, and 14 *other* countries attended the conference. ▪ The study found, ***among other things*** [=in addition to things that are not specifically mentioned], that men and women are equally at risk for the disease. ▪ There's ***one other*** [=one more] person I'd like you to meet. **4** : different or separate from the person or thing that has already been mentioned ▪ Some people believe it while *other* people don't. ▪ "Parents should teach their children to respect *other* people's property," she said. ▪ Gas prices are even higher in *other* parts of the country. ▪ We are asking people to donate money or to help in *other* ways. ▪ The main road is closed, so you'll need to find ***some other*** [=*another*] way to get there. ▪ I'm afraid we'll have to finish this meeting *some other* time. ▪ ***Any other*** day but tomorrow would be okay. ▪ There weren't *any other* children for us to play with. ▪ It was horrible. There's really ***no other*** way to describe it. ▪ It's a problem that's affecting this town and ***every other*** one [=all the towns] in the state. **5** — used to refer to the place that is furthest away from the speaker or to the direction that is opposite to an original direction ▪ We live near the school, but his house is on the *other* [=*opposite*] side of town. ▪ I was sitting at the *other* end of the room. ▪ She turned around and started walking in the *other* direction. ▪ We should have gone the *other* way. **6** : opposite or completely different ▪ Some days he doesn't eat anything, while other days he goes to the *other* extreme and eats everything in the refrigerator. ▪ We ate dinner and then watched the movie, but we should have done it ***the other way around*** [=we should have watched the movie first]
every other — used to indicate how often a repeated activity happens or is done ▪ I run *every other* day. [=I run one day, then the next day I do not run, then the day after that I run, etc.] ▪ The contest is held *every other* year. [=every two years]
in other words see [1]WORD
look the other way see [1]LOOK
none other than see [1]NONE
on the other hand see [1]HAND
other than **1** : not including (something or someone) ▪ We're open every day *other than* [=*except*, *except for*] Sunday. ▪ I saw a movie, but ***other than that***, I didn't do much last weekend. **2 a** : different from (something) ▪ Could we have something *other than* cereal [=something that is not cereal] for breakfast? ▪ We never saw him drink anything *other than* beer. [=we only saw him drink beer] ▪ Do you have this sweater in any color *other than* red? ▪ She said nothing about the case *other than* that her client would not be found guilty. **b** : in a different way from a specified way ▪ She's never spoken *other than* kindly of him. [=she has only spoken about him in a kind way] **3** : EXCEPT — used to introduce a statement that indicates the only person or thing that is not included in or referred to by a previous statement ▪ Take no orders *other than* from me. ▪ No one may enter *other than* by special permission. ▪ You can't get there *other than* by boat.
the other day/night/evening (etc.) : on a day/night/evening (etc.) in the recent past ▪ I talked to him just *the other day*. [=a few days ago] ▪ *The other morning*, I saw a deer on our lawn.

[2]other *pronoun*
1 a : a different or additional person or thing ▪ This car is ***like no other***. [=this is a very special car] ▪ The storms came ***one right after the other***. [=they happened very close together] ▪ I love you and ***no other***. [=no one else] — see also EACH OTHER, SIGNIFICANT OTHER **b *others*** : different or additional people or things ▪ These issues and *others* will be discussed at the next meeting. ▪ She and two *others* were injured in the accident. ▪ Some medicines work better than *others*. ▪ Some (people) believe it while *others* don't. ▪ Be kind to *others*. ▪ One student stood out above all *others*.
2 a *the other* : the person or thing that remains or that has not been shown or mentioned yet ▪ She ate one half of the bagel and gave me *the other*. ▪ I held on with one hand and waved with *the other*. ▪ Each of them looked at *the other*. = They each looked at *the other*. [=they looked at each other] ▪ You can have (either) ***one or the other***—but not both. **b *the others*** : all the members of a group except the person or thing that has already been mentioned ▪ He got a drink of water while *the others* continued playing. ▪ This is the last copy. All *the others* have been sold. ▪ This car got better gas mileage than *the others* we tested.
3 *the other* : an opposite place or thing ▪ We moved from one side of town to *the other*. ▪ She sat at one end of the table while I sat at *the other*. ▪ The weather can go from one extreme to *the other*. [=the weather can change very suddenly]
4 — used in phrases like ***something or other*** or ***somehow or other*** when the specific details about something are not important or have been forgotten ▪ He said he had to go buy *something or other* at the grocery store. ▪ *Somehow or other*, we managed to get all of the boxes into the car. ▪ ***For some reason or other***, they wouldn't let her in the building. ▪ Everyone has felt that way ***at some time or other*** in their lives.
in one ear and out the other see [1]EAR

other half *noun* [*singular*]
1 : a group of people who are not like you because they are either very rich or very poor — used in the phrase ***how the other half lives*** ▪ They won a million dollars and, for a few years, got to see *how the other half lives*. [=how rich people live]
2 *chiefly Brit, old-fashioned + humorous* : a person's wife or husband : BETTER HALF ▪ I don't believe we have anything planned for that night, but let me check with my *other half*.

oth•er•ness /ˈʌðɚnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *literary* : the quality of being different or unusual ▪ As an American growing up in Africa, I always felt a sense of *otherness*. ▪ the *otherness* of their small religious community

[1]otherwise /ˈʌðɚˌwaɪz/ *adv*
1 : in a different way or manner ▪ All of the books had been burned or *otherwise* destroyed. ▪ The women talked in the living room while the men were *otherwise* occupied. ▪ Art allows us to express things that we would not be able to express *otherwise*. ▪ All shows begin at 7:00 unless *otherwise* noted. [=unless there is a note indicating that a show begins at a different time] ▪ employees who are sick or *otherwise* un-

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available [=unavailable for some other reason] ▪ France's King Louis XIV, ***otherwise known as*** [=*also known as*] the Sun King, died in 1715 at the age of 77.

2 : if something did not happen, was not true, etc. ▪ Thank you for reminding me; I might have missed the meeting *otherwise*. [=if you did not remind me] ▪ Something must be wrong; *otherwise*, he would have called. ▪ The new computer program allows us to do in seconds what would *otherwise* [=without the computer program] take us days to accomplish. ▪ The test helps identify problems that might *otherwise* go unnoticed/undetected.

3 : in all ways except the one mentioned ▪ One of the boys has a freckle on his cheek. *Otherwise*, the twins are nearly identical. ▪ I didn't like the ending, but *otherwise* it was a very good book. ▪ It rained in the morning; *otherwise*, it was a beautiful day. = It rained in the morning, but it was a beautiful day *otherwise*.

4 : if not : or else ▪ Finish your dinner. *Otherwise* [=if you don't finish your dinner], you won't get any dessert. ▪ I hope we haven't missed the last train; *otherwise* [=if we have missed the train], we'll have to get a taxi.

5 — used to indicate that something different from the thing mentioned is suggested, shown, done, etc. ▪ He claims to be innocent, but the evidence suggests *otherwise*. [=the evidence suggests that he is not innocent] ▪ While some people think it is true, our research proves *otherwise*. [=our research proves it is false] ▪ Although her political rivals would have us believe *otherwise*, she would be an excellent President. ▪ You know what happened, so don't try to pretend *otherwise*. [=that you don't know what happened]

and/or otherwise — used to refer to something that is different from something already mentioned ▪ The company has been having problems, financial *and otherwise* [=the company has been having financial problems and other kinds of problems], for several years. ▪ They couldn't afford a house, small *or otherwise*. [=or any other kind of house] ▪ Intentionally *or otherwise*, they never told her about the party.

[2]otherwise *adj* : not the same : DIFFERENT ▪ If conditions were *otherwise*, I wouldn't be so worried.

other woman *noun*

the other woman : a woman who is having a sexual relationship with a man who is married to someone else ▪ She was *the other woman* who broke up their marriage.

oth•er•world•ly /ˌʌðəˈwərdli/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : suggesting a world that is different from the world we know : seeming to belong to or come from another world ▪ *otherworldly* creatures from the deep sea ▪ the *otherworldly* [=*ethereal*] beauty of the landscape ▪ *otherworldly* music

– **oth•er•world•li•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *otherworldliness* of the landscape

OTT /ˌoʊˌtiːˈtiː/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *Brit, informal* : beyond what is expected, usual, normal, or appropriate ▪ an *OTT* performance ▪ His reaction was a bit *OTT*. ✧ *OTT* is an abbreviation of the phrase "over the top."

ot•ter /ˈɑːtə/ *noun, pl* **otter** *or* **ot•ters** [*count*] : an animal that has dark brown fur and webbed feet with claws and that eats fish



otter

ot•to•man /ˈɑːtəmən/ *noun, pl* **-mans** [*count*]

1 *US* : a low piece of furniture that has a soft top and that you can put your feet on when you are sitting : a soft footstool — called also (*Brit*) *pouf*

2 : a long seat with no back that has a soft top and that typically has space inside where things can be stored

ouch /ˈaʊʧ/ *interj* — used to express sudden pain ▪ *Ouch*! That hurt!

ought /ˈɑːt/ *verb* [*modal verb*] ✧ *Ought* is almost always followed by *to* and the infinitive form of a verb. The phrase ***ought to*** has the same meaning as *should* and is used in the same ways, but it is less common and somewhat more formal. The negative forms ***ought not*** and ***oughtn't*** are often used without a following *to*.

1 — used to indicate what is expected ▪ They *ought to* be here by now. ▪ You *ought to* be able to read this book. ▪ There *ought to* be a gas station on the way. ▪ He *ought to* have known better. ▪ If my math is correct, the result *ought to* be zero. ▪ He *ought to* have enough money for the trip. ▪ She *ought to* be ashamed of herself. ▪ It *ought not* (*to*) make any difference. [=(more commonly) it shouldn't make any difference]

2 — used to say or suggest what should be done ▪ You *ought to* get some rest. ▪ That leak *ought to* be fixed. ▪ You *ought to* do your homework. ▪ We *ought to* go now. ▪ We *ought to* get together some time soon. ▪ You *ought to* apologize. ▪ Children *ought not* [=*should not*] run near the pool.

oughtn't /ˈɑːtnt/ — used as a contraction of *ought not* ▪ It *oughtn't* (to) make any difference.

Oui•ja /ˈwiːʤə/ *trademark* — used for a board that has the alphabet and other signs on it and that some people believe can be used to communicate with the spirits of dead people

ounce /ˈaʊns/ *noun, pl* **ounc•es**

1 [*count*] : a unit of weight equal to 1/16 pound (about 28 grams)

2 [*count*] : FLUID OUNCE

3 [*singular*] *informal* : a very small amount of something ▪ If you had an *ounce* of common sense, you wouldn't try it. ▪ He doesn't have an *ounce* of decency. ▪ She doesn't have an *ounce* of fat on her body. [=she is very thin] ▪ That story doesn't have an *ounce* of truth in it. [=that story is completely untrue]

our /ˈawɚ, ɑɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun, possessive form of* WE : relating to or belonging to us ▪ *our* house/dog/country ▪ We bumped *our* heads. ▪ We are defending *our* rights. ▪ *our* family/parents/relatives ▪ Rare wines are *our* specialty. [=we specialize in rare wines] : made or done by us ▪ We were criticized for *our* actions/misbehavior. ▪ We kept *our* promise. ▪ He was angry because of *our* being late. [=he was angry because we were late]

Our Father *noun, pl* ~ **-thers**

1 ***the Our Father*** : LORD'S PRAYER

2 [*count*] : an act of saying the Lord's Prayer ▪ She knelt down and said an *Our Father*.

ours /ˈawɚz, ɑɚz/ *pronoun* : that which belongs to or is connected with us : our one : our ones ▪ That house is *ours*. [=that is our house] ▪ Those books are *ours*. [=those are our books] ▪ *Ours* is the house on the left. [=our house is the one on the left] ▪ Their house is brown and *ours* is gray. ▪ He is a friend ***of ours***. [=he is our friend]

our•selves /ˌawɚˈsɛlvz, ɑɚˈsɛlvz/ *pronoun*

1 : those same ones that we are: **a** — used as the object of a verb or preposition to refer to a group that includes you after that group has already been mentioned ▪ We consider *ourselves* lucky. ▪ We can see *ourselves* being parents someday. ▪ We kept the money for *ourselves*. ▪ We made fools (out) of *ourselves*. [=we made ourselves look foolish] ▪ We have the house to *ourselves* this weekend. [=we are the only ones staying in the house this weekend] ▪ We want to see it ***for ourselves***. [=we wanted to see it rather than have someone tell us about it, describe it to us, etc.] **b** — used for emphasis to refer again to a group that includes you after that group has already been mentioned ▪ We *ourselves* do not agree. ▪ We did it *ourselves*. ▪ We told them *ourselves* that we would help. ▪ We were young once *ourselves*. [=we are old now but were once young]

2 : our normal or healthy selves ▪ We are tired and just not *ourselves*. ▪ We were sick, but we are back to *ourselves* today.

by ourselves **1** : without any help from other people ▪ We did it (all) *by ourselves*. **2** : with nobody else except us ▪ We went to the movies *by ourselves*. ▪ We both live *by ourselves*. [=*alone*]

-ous /əs/ *adj suffix* : full of : having a large amount of ▪ dang*erous* [=full of danger] ▪ poison*ous* [=having or containing poison] ▪ mountain*ous* [=having many mountains] : having the quality of ▪ courage*ous* [=having courage] ▪ glamor*ous* [=having glamour]

oust /ˈaʊst/ *verb* **ousts**; **oust•ed**; **oust•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause or force (someone or something) to leave a position of power, a competition, etc. ▪ The rebels *ousted* the dictator from power. — often used as *(be) ousted* ▪ He *was ousted* as chairman. ▪ The team *was ousted* from the tournament in the first round of the play-offs.

2 : to take the place of (someone or something) ▪ Large national banks are *ousting* local banks in many communities.

oust•er /ˈaʊstɚ/ *noun* [*singular*] *US* : the act of removing someone or something from a position of power or authority ▪ The news reported the *ouster* of the dictator. ▪ the dictator's *ouster* by the rebels

[1]out /ˈaʊt/ *adv*

1 : in a direction away from the inside or center of some-

thing ▪ He went *out* to the garden. ▪ He looked *out* at the snow. ▪ She poured the tea *out*. ▪ The girl stuck her tongue *out*. ▪ His shirttail was hanging *out*. ▪ He pulled *out* the cork (from the bottle). ▪ I heard a noise in the bushes and *out* jumped a cat!

2 : in or to a place outside of something (such as a building, room, etc.) ▪ He waited *out* in the hall. ▪ I cleaned my car inside and *out*. ▪ A car pulled up and two men got *out*. ▪ She is *out* [=*outside*] playing with her friends. ▪ She took the dog *out* [=*outdoors*] for a walk. ▪ He grabbed his coat and *out* he went. ▪ It is raining/sunny *out* today.

3 a : away from home or work ▪ They went *out* on a date. ▪ We dine *out* once a week. ▪ We went *out* for/to lunch. ▪ Are you going to ***ask her out***? [=ask her to go on a date with you] **b :** away from a place ▪ They flew *out* yesterday. ▪ Did you ship *out* the packages yet? ▪ The house is *out* in the country. ▪ I was just ***on my way out*** [=I was just leaving] when the phone rang. **c :** away from the shore ▪ The ship sailed *out* to sea. ▪ The tide is going *out*. ▪ They rowed *out* to the ship. ▪ She swam about 100 yards *out*.

4 — used to indicate that something is not in the usual or proper place ▪ You left *out* a comma here. ▪ She threw *out* her shoulder. ▪ He knocked a tooth *out*.

5 : from among a group of things ▪ She picked *out* a shirt to wear.

6 : in or into the control or possession of another person ▪ She is always willing to lend *out* money to friends. ▪ The library book I want is still *out*. [=someone else has borrowed the library book] ▪ Please don't let my secret *out*. [=don't tell anyone my secret] ▪ They passed *out* free samples.

7 a : to a state in which something has been used or removed completely ▪ Their food supply ran *out*. ▪ I couldn't get the stain *out*. [=I could not remove the stain] **b :** to a state in which something is completed ▪ Please fill *out* this form. ▪ She worked *out* the math problem by herself.

8 : in the position of someone who is not involved or participating in something ▪ Count me *out*. [=do not include me in your plans] ▪ "Do you want to dance?" "Sorry, but I think I'd better sit this one *out*." ▪ "Do you want to go shopping?" "No, I'm *out*." [=I don't want to go]

9 : in the position of someone who is no longer in a political office or job ▪ They voted him *out* by an overwhelming margin. ▪ Some people want the President *out*.

10 : to the full or a great extent ▪ He was all decked *out* in a new suit. ▪ She stretched *out* on the couch. ▪ The horse was tired *out*.

11 : in a way that can be clearly heard or understood ▪ He spoke *out* against the proposed tax. ▪ She read *out* [=*aloud*] the names on the list. ▪ He cried *out* in pain.

12 *baseball* **:** no longer batting or on a base because of a play made by the other team ▪ He threw/tagged the runner *out*. ▪ She flied/grounded *out*. ▪ It's the bottom of the ninth inning with two men *out*. ▪ The runner/batter was (called) *out*.

13 : no longer operating, burning, etc. ▪ The electricity/fire is *out*. ▪ He landed the plane with one engine *out*. ▪ The wind blew the candle *out*.

14 : at an end ▪ We should be finished before the day is *out*. [=*done*]

15 : no longer in fashion ▪ That style of dress is definitely *out*.

16 : trying to achieve or do something ▪ He was ***out to*** [=*determined to*] get revenge. = He was ***out for*** revenge. ▪ She was *out for* a good time. [=she wanted to have a good time] — see also *out for blood* at BLOOD

17 : available to the public ▪ The band's new CD is not *out* yet.

18 : not possible : not to be considered ▪ That choice was *out* as far as we were concerned.

19 : able to be seen ▪ The sun is *out*. ▪ There is a full moon *out* tonight. ▪ The roses are not *out* [=*blooming*] yet.

20 : in or into a state of being asleep or unconscious ▪ He was *out* as soon as his head hit the pillow. ▪ She was ***out cold*** — see also *out for the count* at ²COUNT

21 : not correct ▪ She was *out* [=*off*] in her calculations by $25.

22 : having less than an earlier amount ▪ He went gambling and was $100 *out* at the end of the night. = He was *out* $100 at the end of the night.

23 : no longer in jail or prison ▪ He will be *out* (of prison) in two months.

24 : known publicly as a homosexual ▪ He's been *out* for a long time now.

25 *sports* **:** not in the area in which a game is played : OUT-OF-BOUNDS ▪ Her last serve was *out*.

26 — used to indicate that a radio message is complete and no reply is expected ▪ Message received, Mission Control. Over and *out*.

odd man/one out see ODD

out and about **:** going to different places ▪ She is always *out and about*, doing one thing or another.

out back see ¹BACK

out front see ¹FRONT

out loud see LOUD

out of **1** — used to show the direction or movement of a person or thing from the inside to the outside of something ▪ She walked *out of* the room. ▪ Take your hands *out of* your pockets. ▪ We've decided to move *out of* the country/state/city. ▪ Don't get *out of* your chair/seat. ▪ It's time to get *out of* bed. ▪ They're flying *out of* Washington [=they're leaving Washington] this afternoon. **2** — used to say that a person or thing is not or no longer at a particular place ▪ She's *out of* [=away from] the office at the moment. ▪ He just got *out of* the hospital. ▪ He just got *out of* prison/jail yesterday. ▪ She's fresh *out of* college. [=she has recently graduated from college] ▪ She's been *out of* town for two days. ▪ Let's get *out of* here. [=let's leave] ▪ Move! Get *out of* the way! ▪ His case was settled ***out of court*** [=settled without a trial or a decision by a judge] ▪ an ***out-of-court*** settlement — see also *out of here* at ¹HERE **3** — used to say that a person or thing is not or no longer in a particular state or situation ▪ They woke him up *out of* a deep sleep. ▪ Try to stay *out of* trouble at school, okay? ▪ Our favorite store's going *out of* business. ▪ We're not *out of* danger yet. [=we're still not safe] ▪ He came *out of* retirement to play one more season. ▪ He got kicked *out of* the game for playing too rough. ▪ Disco dancing went *out of* fashion in the early 1980s. ▪ *out of* style ▪ All of the pictures are *out of* focus. ▪ I think your guitar is *out of* tune. ▪ She's *out of* her league. [=she can't compete well in this situation] ▪ Has anything *out of* the ordinary [=anything unusual] happened? ▪ a book that is ***out of print*** = an ***out-of-print*** book [=a book that is no longer being printed] **4** — used to say that a person or thing is beyond the range or limits of something ▪ Try to stay *out of* the sun. ▪ We went inside to get *out of* the rain. ▪ Keep all medicines *out of* (the) reach of children. [=keep medicines in a place where children cannot reach them] ▪ The train was soon *out of* sight. [=it was too far away for people to see it] ▪ You know the old saying, "*out of* sight, *out of* mind." If you don't see it, you won't think about it. ▪ It's *out of* our hands now. We can't control what happens anymore. ▪ The situation has gotten completely *out of* hand. = Things are *out of* control. **5** — used to say that a person or thing is not in the usual or expected condition ▪ If you're *out of* shape [=if you're not in shape], start exercising slowly. ▪ I hadn't skated in five years, and I was really *out of* practice. ▪ That big table seems *out of* place in their tiny kitchen. **6 a** — used to say what something is made from ▪ She wore a necklace made *out of* gold and diamonds. ▪ a boat built *out of* small trees and rope ▪ Let's try to make the best *out of* a bad situation. **b** — used to say where a person or thing comes from ▪ I got the idea *out of* [=*from*] the book. ▪ He had to pay for it *out of* his own pocket. ▪ That meeting was a complete waste of time. I got nothing *out of* it. **7** — used to say where an activity takes place ▪ He runs his business *out of* [=*from*] his home. **8** — used to say what causes something ▪ Most people watched the show *out of* curiosity. [=because they were curious] ▪ *Out of* concern for her children, she decided to move to a safer neighborhood. ▪ They became soldiers *out of* a sense of duty and honor. **9** — used to say that a person or thing no longer has something ▪ "Are we *out of* milk?" "Yes, I finished it this morning." ▪ The store's *out of* bread. ▪ The car's almost *out of* gas. ▪ I'm *out of* breath. ▪ I ran *out of* time and didn't get to finish the test. ▪ She's been *out of* [=*without*] a job for two months now. **10** — used to compare a small number to a larger number in order to say how many people or things are selected, do something, etc. ▪ Only one *out of* four of our tomato plants survived. ▪ Nine *out of* 10 dentists prefer this toothpaste. ▪ The disease occurs in one *out of* a thousand people. ▪ *Out of* a group of 20 students, only 10 passed the test. ▪ She scored 49 *out of* a possible 50 points.

out of it *informal* **1 :** in a state in which you are not thinking clearly ▪ I had just woken up and was still pretty much *out of it*. **2 :** not part of an activity, group, or fashion ▪ I felt completely *out of it* at the club.

out of nowhere see NOWHERE

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out on your ear see [1]EAR
out there see [1]THERE
out to lunch see [1]LUNCH
out with it *informal* — used to tell someone to say something that they do not want to say or that they are having difficulty saying ▪ OK, *out with it*. Tell us what she said.

[2]out *prep, chiefly US*
1 — used to indicate that a person or animal is looking at something that is outside of a building, room, etc. ▪ She looked *out* [=*out of*] the window.
2 — used to indicate that a person or animal is moving from the inside of a building, room, etc., to the outside ▪ He ran *out* [=*out of*] the door.

[3]out *verb* **outs**; **out•ed**; **out•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to tell people that (someone) is a homosexual ▪ a gay actor who was *outed* in a magazine article **b** : to tell people that (someone) is or does a particular thing ▪ He is threatening to *out* other players who have used steroids.
2 [*no obj*] : to become publicly known ▪ The truth will *out*. ▪ Murder will *out*.

[4]out *noun, pl* **outs**
1 [*count*] *baseball* : the act of causing a player to be out or the situation that exists when a player has been put out ▪ The play resulted in an *out*. ▪ With two *outs* in the bottom of the ninth inning, he hit a home run to win the game.
2 [*singular*] : a way of avoiding an embarrassing or difficult situation ▪ I think she was just using her mother's illness as an *out*. [=*excuse*] ▪ He changed the wording of the contract to give/leave himself an *out*.
on the outs *US, informal* : in an unfriendly or bad relationship : no longer friendly or together ▪ There's a rumor that she and her husband are *on the outs*. — often + *with* ▪ She is *on the outs with* her husband.
– see also INS AND OUTS

out- /ˌaʊt/ *prefix* : in a manner that is greater, better, or more than something else ▪ *out*number ▪ *out*grow ▪ *out*run ▪ *out*maneuver ▪ *out*play

out•age /ˈaʊtɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ag•es** [*count*] *US* : a period of time when there is no electricity in a building or area ▪ The power *outage* left us in the dark for five hours. [=we did not have electrical power for five hours] — called also (*Brit*) *power cut*

out–and–out /ˌaʊtn̩ˈaʊt/ *adj, always used before a noun* — used to emphasize a description ▪ He's an *out-and-out* liar. ▪ He told an *out-and-out* lie.

out•back /ˈaʊtˈbæk/ *noun*
the outback : the part of Australia that is far from cities and where few people live

out•bid /ˈaʊtˈbɪd/ *verb* **-bids**; **-bid**; **-bid•ding** [+ *obj*] : to offer to pay a higher price than (someone) for something especially at an auction : to make a higher bid than (someone) ▪ He *outbid* me for the painting I wanted. ▪ She tried to buy the antique vase but was *outbid*.

out•board /ˈaʊtˌboəd/ *adj, technical* : located on or toward the outside of a vehicle (such as an airplane or ship) ▪ an *outboard* engine — compare INBOARD
– **outboard** *adv*

outboard motor *noun, pl* ~ **-tors** [*count*] : a small engine that is attached to the back of a small boat — see picture at BOAT

out•bound /ˈaʊtˌbaʊnd/ *adj* : traveling away from a place : outward bound ▪ The airline has canceled all *outbound* flights. ▪ The bridge is closed to *outbound* traffic. [=the bridge is closed to traffic going away from a city or town] — opposite INBOUND

out–box /ˈaʊtˌbɑːks/ *noun, pl* **-box•es** [*count*]
1 *US* : a box or other container on a desk in which letters, notes, etc., that are being sent from the desk are placed — called also (*Brit*) *out tray*; see picture at OFFICE; compare IN-BOX
2 *computers* : a computer folder that holds e-mail messages you have not yet sent

out•break /ˈaʊtˌbreɪk/ *noun, pl* **-breaks** [*count*] : a sudden start or increase of fighting or disease ▪ a cholera *outbreak* — often + *of* ▪ an *outbreak of* violence/war ▪ They are preparing for an *outbreak of* the virus.

out•build•ing /ˈaʊtˌbɪldɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] : a small building that is separated from a main building

out•burst /ˈaʊtˌbəst/ *noun, pl* **-bursts** [*count*]
1 : a sudden expression of strong feeling ▪ an *outburst* of anger/kindness ▪ He later apologized for his *outburst* (of anger). ▪ an angry *outburst*
2 : a sudden increase in activity ▪ an *outburst* of violence/creativity/rumors

out•cast /ˈaʊtˌkæst, *Brit* ˈaʊtˌkɑːst/ *noun, pl* **-casts** [*count*] : someone who is not accepted by other people ▪ She felt like a social *outcast*.

out•class /ˌaʊtˈklæs, *Brit* ˌaʊtˈklɑːs/ *verb* **-class•es**; **-classed**; **-class•ing** [+ *obj*] : to be or do much better than (someone or something) ▪ The new model *outclasses* all past models. ▪ She *outclassed* everyone else in the dance competition. — often used as *(be) outclassed* ▪ She *was outclassed* in the tennis tournament. [=other people played better than she did]

out•come /ˈaʊtˌkʌm/ *noun, pl* **-comes** [*count*] : something that happens as a result of an activity or process : RESULT ▪ the *outcome* of the election/game ▪ We are still awaiting the final *outcome* of the trial. ▪ There are two possible *outcomes*.

out•cry /ˈaʊtˌkraɪ/ *noun, pl* **-cries** : an expression of strong anger or disapproval by many people : a reaction showing that people are angry or unhappy about something [*count*] There was a public *outcry* over his comments. [=many people objected publicly to his comments] ▪ They were surprised by the *outcry* against the casino proposal. [*noncount*] There was a lot of public *outcry* over his racial comments.

out•dat•ed /ˌaʊtˈdeɪtəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : no longer useful or acceptable : not modern or current ▪ *outdated* [=*out-of-date*] computers/technology ▪ *outdated* laws/information ▪ *outdated* fashions

out•dis•tance /ˌaʊtˈdɪstəns/ *verb* **-tanc•es**; **-tanced**; **-tanc•ing** [+ *obj*] : to go far ahead of or beyond (someone or something) ▪ She easily *outdistanced* the other runners. ▪ This television *outdistances* all others in the number of sales.

out•do /ˌaʊtˈduː/ *verb* **-does** /-ˈdʌz/; **-did** /-ˈdɪd/; **-done** /-ˈdʌn/; **-do•ing** /-ˈduːwɪŋ/ [+ *obj*] : to do better than (someone or something) : to be more successful than (someone or something) ▪ Smaller companies often *outdo* larger ones in customer service. ▪ My sister always tried to *outdo* me in school. ▪ She's a great cook, but she really ***outdid herself*** this time. The meal was wonderful. [=it was the best meal she ever made] ▪ She scored 20 points in the first game. ***Not to be outdone***, I scored 30 points myself in the second game.

out•door /ˈaʊtˌdoə/ *adj, always used before a noun* : done, used, or located outside a building ▪ *outdoor* sports/activities ▪ *outdoor* clothing ▪ an *outdoor* concert/theater/track — compare INDOOR

[1]out•doors /ˌaʊtˈdoəz/ *adv* : outside a building : not inside a building ▪ The game is meant to be played *outdoors*. ▪ He worked *outdoors* all afternoon. ▪ I went *outdoors* for some fresh air. — compare INDOORS

[2]outdoors *noun*
the outdoors : the natural world : the places outside where you can enjoy nature ▪ We went for a walk to enjoy *the outdoors*. ▪ They love *the outdoors*. ▪ Every summer they go camping to enjoy ***the great outdoors***.

out•doors•man /ˌaʊtˈdoəzmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a man who likes outdoor activities

out•doors•wom•an /ˌaʊtˈdoəzˌwʊmən/ *noun, pl* **-wo•men** /-ˌwɪmən/ [*count*] : a woman who likes outdoor activities

out•doorsy /ˌaʊtˈdoəzi/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : enjoying outdoor activities ▪ an *outdoorsy* couple

out•er /ˈaʊtə/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : located on or toward the outside of something : not on or at the inside or center of something ▪ the city's *outer* limits ▪ the planet's *outer* ring ▪ the *outer* edges of the roof ▪ The package's *outer* covering was damaged. ▪ I removed the *outer* skin of the onion. — opposite INNER
2 : of or relating to a person's body or physical appearance rather than to a person's mind or spirit ▪ Her inner turmoil was masked by an *outer* calm.

outer ear *noun, pl* ~ **ears** [*count*] *biology* : the part of the ear that can be seen on the outside of your head — compare INNER EAR

out•er•most /ˈaʊtəˌmoʊst/ *adj, always used before a noun* : farthest from the center of something ▪ The arrow hit the *outermost* ring on the target. ▪ the *outermost* planet in our solar system — opposite INNERMOST

outer space *noun* [*noncount*] : the region beyond the Earth's atmosphere in which there are stars and planets ▪ a satellite in *outer space* ▪ Is there life in *outer space*?

out•er•wear /ˈaʊtəˌweə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : clothes (such as sweaters, coats, or jackets) that you wear over other clothing

especially for warmth when you are outside

out•field /ˈaʊtˌfiːld/ *noun, pl* **-fields** [*count*]
1 a : the part of a baseball field that includes the area beyond the infield and between the foul lines ▪ He threw the ball to home plate from the *outfield*. **b :** the part of a cricket field that is away from the wickets
2 : the players who are positioned in the outfield ▪ The team has one of the best *outfields* in the league. — compare INFIELD
– **out•field•er** /ˈaʊtˌfiːldɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *US* ▪ a young *outfielder* [=a baseball player who plays in the outfield]

[1]out•fit /ˈaʊtˌfɪt/ *noun, pl* **-fits** [*count*]
1 : a set of clothes that are worn together ▪ She bought a new *outfit* for the party. ▪ a cowboy/ski *outfit*
2 : a group of people working together in the same activity ▪ He works for a publishing *outfit*. [=*organization*] ▪ My *outfit* [=military unit] was stationed in Iraq during the war.

[2]outfit *verb* **-fits**; **-fit•ted**; **-fit•ting** [+ *obj*] **:** to provide (someone or something) with equipment or clothes especially for a special purpose ▪ The company *outfitted* us with food and supplies. — often used as *(be) outfitted* ▪ The car *was outfitted* [=*equipped*] with a new stereo system.

out•fit•ter /ˈaʊtˌfɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*]
1 *US* **:** a business that provides equipment, supplies, and often trained guides for activities such as hunting, hiking, etc. ▪ Hunters say it's the best *outfitter* in the state.; *also* **:** a guide who works for such a business ▪ Our *outfitter* showed us where the deer feed.
2 *Brit, old-fashioned* **:** a person or business that sells men's clothing

out•flank /ˌaʊtˈflæŋk/ *verb* **-flanks**; **-flanked**; **-flank•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to move around the side of (something, such as an opposing force) to attack from behind ▪ The army *outflanked* the enemy.
2 : to gain an advantage over (someone or something) ▪ trying to *outflank* the competition

out•flow /ˈaʊtˌfloʊ/ *noun, pl* **-flows :** an outward flow or movement of something [*count*] The campaign has seen a massive *outflow* [=the campaign has spent a lot] of funds/money/cash in recent months. ▪ We joined the *outflow* of fans from the stadium after the game. [*noncount*] The vents provide improved *outflow* of air/water. — opposite INFLOW

out•fox /ˌaʊtˈfɑːks/ *verb* **-fox•es**; **-foxed**; **-fox•ing** [+ *obj*] **:** to defeat or trick (someone) by being more intelligent or clever ▪ He *outfoxed* [=*outsmarted, outwitted*] the police and escaped.

out•go•ing /ˈaʊtˌgoʊɪŋ/ *adj*
1 [*more ~; most ~*] — used to describe someone who is friendly and likes being with and talking to other people ▪ His *outgoing* personality made him very popular in school. ▪ an *outgoing* [=*extroverted*] person
2 : going away **:** leaving a place ▪ *outgoing* [=*departing*] ships ▪ *Outgoing* mail goes in this box. ▪ *outgoing* messages/calls/letters/e-mails — opposite INCOMING
3 : leaving a particular position ▪ the *outgoing* president — opposite INCOMING

out•go•ings /ˈaʊtˌgoʊɪŋz/ *noun* [*plural*] *Brit* **:** the money that is spent on something ▪ monthly *outgoings* [=*costs, expenses*]

out•grow /ˌaʊtˈgroʊ/ *verb* **-grows**; **-grew** /-ˈgruː/; **-grown** /-ˈgroʊn/; **-grow•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to grow too large for (someone or something) ▪ Kids *outgrow* their clothes so quickly. ▪ The plant has *outgrown* my garden. ▪ Our business is *outgrowing* its small office building.
2 : to stop doing (something) because you are older and more mature ▪ Her bad behavior is just a phase. I'm sure she'll *outgrow* it. [=grow out of it]
3 : to stop being interested in or involved with (something or someone) because you have changed as you have grown older ▪ She's *outgrown* most of her toys. ▪ I realized that I had *outgrown* my old high school friends.
4 : to grow faster than (something) ▪ populations *outgrowing* their food supplies

out•growth /ˈaʊtˌgroʊθ/ *noun, pl* **-growths** [*count*]
1 : something that develops or results from something else — often + *of* ▪ Traffic jams are often an *outgrowth* [=*consequence, product*] *of* poor urban planning. ▪ a natural *outgrowth of* our research
2 *technical* **:** something that grows out of something else ▪ an *outgrowth* of bone

out•gun /ˌaʊtˈgʌn/ *verb* **-guns**; **-gunned**; **-gun•ning** [+ *obj*] **:** to have more military weapons and power than (someone or something) — often used as *(be) outgunned* ▪ We *were outgunned* (by the enemy). — often used figuratively ▪ The defending champions *were outgunned* last night 36–10.

out•house /ˈaʊtˌhaʊs/ *noun, pl* **-hous•es** [*count*]
1 *US* **:** a small outdoor building that is used as a toilet
2 *Brit* **:** a small building (such as a shed) that is separated from a main building

out•ing /ˈaʊtɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*]
1 : a brief trip that people take for fun usually as a group ▪ We went on a backpacking *outing*. ▪ a family/school *outing* — often + *to* ▪ She took the children on an *outing to* the zoo.
2 : a time when an athlete (such as a baseball pitcher) competes in a game or contest ▪ The pitcher has struggled in his last three *outings*. [=the last three times he has pitched in a game] ▪ He had a good/bad *outing*. [=he played well/poorly]
3 a : an act of telling the public that a person is homosexual when that person does not want the public to know ▪ the *outing* of a famous actor by gay activists **b :** an act of telling people that a person has a certain job, identity, etc., that was supposed to be kept secret ▪ the *outing* of a secret agent

out•land•ish /ˌaʊtˈlændɪʃ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] **:** very strange or unusual **:** extremely different from what is normal or expected ▪ She fills her books with *outlandish* characters. ▪ The actress wore an *outlandish* dress to the awards ceremony. ▪ an *outlandish* story
– **out•land•ish•ly** *adv* ▪ He was *outlandishly* dressed.

out•last /ˌaʊtˈlæst, *Brit* ˌaʊtˈlɑːst/ *verb* **-lasts**; **-last•ed**; **-last•ing** [+ *obj*] **:** to last longer than (someone or something) **:** to continue to exist, be active, etc., longer than (someone or something) ▪ We watched him *outlast* his opponent in one of the greatest boxing matches of all time. ▪ The policies he has established will *outlast* his presidency.

[1]out•law /ˈaʊtˌlɑː/ *noun, pl* **-laws** [*count*] **:** a person who has broken the law and who is hiding or running away to avoid punishment ▪ Billy the Kid was one of the most famous *outlaws* of America's early history. ▪ a gang of *outlaws*

[2]outlaw *verb* **-laws**; **-lawed**; **-law•ing** [+ *obj*] **:** to make (something) illegal ▪ That type of gun was *outlawed* last year. ▪ The government passed a bill *outlawing* the hiring of children under the age of 12.

out•lay /ˈaʊtˌleɪ/ *noun, pl* **-lays** *formal* **:** an amount of money that is spent [*count*] The initial *outlay* for the program will be 2.4 million dollars. ▪ an *outlay* of $2,000 ▪ large cash *outlays* [*noncount*] Maintaining a horse requires considerable *outlay*.

out•let /ˈaʊtˌlɛt/ *noun, pl* **-lets** [*count*]
1 : something that people use to express their emotions or talents ▪ emotional/artistic *outlets* — often + *for* ▪ She used poetry as an *outlet for* her sadness. ▪ They needed a healthy *outlet for* their anger. ▪ an *outlet for* his talents
2 : a store that sells products made usually by one company and often at reduced prices ▪ designer clothing *outlets* ▪ a discount furniture *outlet* ▪ retail *outlets* ▪ *outlet* stores
3 : a television, radio, or publishing company ▪ media/news *outlets* ▪ a cable TV *outlet*
4 *US* **:** a device in a wall into which an electric cord can be plugged in order to provide electricity for a lamp, television, etc. ▪ electrical *outlets* ▪ a wall *outlet* — called also *socket*, (*Brit*) *point*, (*Brit*) *power point*
5 : a place or opening through which something can go out ▪ an *outlet* for the air to escape ▪ the river's *outlet* to the sea

[1]out•line /ˈaʊtˌlaɪn/ *noun, pl* **-lines**
1 a [*count*] **:** a drawing or picture that shows only the shape of an object — often + *of* ▪ An *outline of* his face showed his high forehead, long nose, and small chin. ▪ *Outlines of* animals were carved into the cave's walls. **b** [*noncount*] **:** a style of drawing in which only the outer edges of an object are shown ▪ The pictures were drawn ***in outline*** and then filled in with color.
2 [*count*] **:** a line that is drawn around the edges of something ▪ The leaves etched into the vase have a gold *outline*.
3 : a written list or description of only the most important parts of an essay, speech, plan, etc. [*count*] Organize your essay by writing an *outline* in which you state your main idea followed by your supporting points. ▪ a plot *outline* ▪ a brief *outline* of American history [*noncount*] Her speech was written ***in outline*** on note cards.

[2]outline *verb* **-lines**; **-lined**; **-lin•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to draw a line around the edges of (something) — usually

O

used as *(be) outlined* ▪ The leaves on the vase *are outlined* in gold. ▪ the *outlined* areas on the map — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The mountain *was outlined* against the setting sun.

2 : to list or describe only the most important parts of (an essay, speech, plan, etc.) : to give an outline of (something) ▪ The President *outlined* his agenda for the next term. ▪ The book *outlines* the major events of the country's history. ▪ All players must follow the rules *outlined* above.

out•live /ˌaʊtˈlɪv/ *verb* **-lives**; **-lived**; **-liv•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to live longer than (someone) ▪ No mother wants to *outlive* her children. ▪ He *outlived* his wife by 10 years.

2 : to continue to exist longer than (something) : to outlast (something) ▪ The law has ***outlived its usefulness***. [=the law still exists, but it is no longer useful]

out•look /ˈaʊtˌlʊk/ *noun, pl* **-looks**

1 : the way that a person thinks about things [*count*] The students all seemed to have the same *outlook*. ▪ the *outlook* of the 1990s [=the general attitude of people living in the 1990s] ▪ her political *outlook* — often + *on* ▪ The book totally changed my *outlook on* politics. ▪ They had very different *outlooks on* the world. ▪ a positive/optimistic ***outlook on life*** [*noncount*] Despite our differences ***in outlook***, we got along together very well.

2 [*count*] : a set of conditions that will probably exist in the future : the future of someone or something — usually singular ▪ the country's economic *outlook* — often + *for* ▪ The *outlook for* the company is hopeful. ▪ The *outlook for* tomorrow is scattered showers and temperatures in the 70s.

3 [*count*] : a place where you can look out over a wide area ▪ scenic *outlooks* along the highway; *also* : a view from such a place ▪ a beautiful *outlook*

out•ly•ing /ˈaʊtˌlajɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : far away from the center of a place ▪ the *outlying* areas of the city ▪ the country's *outlying* islands

out•ma•neu•ver (*US*) *or Brit* **out•ma•noeu•vre** /ˌaʊtməˈnuːvɚ/ *verb* **-vers**; **-vered**; **-ver•ing** [+ *obj*] : to use cleverness or skill to gain an advantage over (someone) ▪ She *outmaneuvered* her political opponents. ▪ He *outmaneuvered* the cars in front of him and won the race.

out•mod•ed /ˌaʊtˈmoʊdəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : no longer useful or acceptable : not modern or current ▪ The army was using *outmoded* [=*old-fashioned*, *antiquated*] weapons from the 1950s. ▪ *outmoded* technology ▪ *outmoded* beliefs

out•num•ber /ˌaʊtˈnʌmbɚ/ *verb* **-bers**; **-bered**; **-ber•ing** [+ *obj*] : to be more than (someone or something) in number ▪ With 20 girls and 10 boys in the class, girls *outnumber* boys by 2 to 1. ▪ Their wins *outnumber* their losses. [=they have more wins than losses] ▪ The few men in the audience were greatly *outnumbered* by the women. [=there were many more women than men in the audience]

out–of–body experience *noun, pl* ~ **-ences** [*count*] : an experience in which you have a feeling of being separated from your body and in which you can look at yourself and other people from the outside

out–of–bounds /ˌaʊtəvˈbaʊndz/ *adj* : outside the area in which a game is played ▪ The catch was *out-of-bounds*. — see also *out of bounds* at ⁶BOUND

out–of–date /ˌaʊtəvˈdeɪt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : no longer useful or acceptable : not modern or current ▪ *out-of-date* [=*outdated*] ideas ▪ an *out-of-date* history book

out of doors *adv* : outside rather than inside a building ▪ The play was performed *out of doors*. [=*outdoors*, *outside*]

out–of–pock•et /ˌaʊtəvˈpɑːkət/ *adj* : paid for with your own money rather than with money from another source (such as the company you work for or an insurance company) ▪ *out-of-pocket* medical expenses ▪ You can be reimbursed for *out-of-pocket* expenses when you are on a business trip.

– **out of pocket** *adv* ▪ She paid *out of pocket* for the prescription. — see also *out of pocket* at ²POCKET

out–of–the–way /ˌaʊtəðəˈweɪ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : located far from other places that are well-known ▪ We had dinner at this little *out-of-the-way* place. ▪ *out-of-the-way* restaurants

out–of–town *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : coming from or going to another town or city ▪ *out-of-town* mail ▪ *out-of-town* visitors

2 : happening in another town or city ▪ The band has an *out-of-town* show tomorrow night.

3 *Brit* : located away from the center of a town ▪ *out-of-town* shopping centers

out–of–town•er /ˌaʊtəvˈtaʊnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : someone who is from another town or city ▪ The convention attracts a lot of *out-of-towners* to the city.

out–of–work *adj* : not having a job ▪ *out-of-work* [=*unemployed*] actors and actresses

out•pace /ˌaʊtˈpeɪs/ *verb* **-pac•es**; **-paced**; **-pac•ing** [+ *obj*] : to go or grow faster than (something) ▪ Population growth has continued to *outpace* [=*surpass*] job growth for the last several decades. ▪ The demand for the product has *outpaced* [=*exceeded*] the company's ability to produce it.

out•pa•tient /ˈaʊtˌpeɪʃənt/ *noun, pl* **-tients** [*count*] : a person who goes to a doctor's office or hospital for treatment but who does not spend the night there — often used before another noun ▪ *outpatient* surgery [=surgery that does not require patients to stay in the hospital] ▪ *outpatient* care/treatment — compare INPATIENT

out•per•form /ˌaʊtpɚˈfoɚm/ *verb* **-forms**; **-formed**; **-form•ing** [+ *obj*] : to do or perform better than (someone or something) ▪ The car consistently *outperforms* all other vehicles in its class. ▪ *outperforming* the competition

out•place•ment /ˌaʊtˈpleɪsmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the activity or process of helping workers find new jobs when they are no longer wanted or needed — usually used before another noun ▪ *outplacement* services ▪ an *outplacement* program/firm

out•play /ˌaʊtˈpleɪ/ *verb* **-plays**; **-played**; **-play•ing** [+ *obj*] : to play better than (a person or team) ▪ They *outplayed* the visiting team in the last half of the game.

out•point /ˌaʊtˈpɔɪnt/ *verb* **-points**; **-point•ed**; **-point•ing** [+ *obj*] : to win more points than (an opponent) in a boxing match

out•post /ˈaʊtˌpoʊst/ *noun, pl* **-posts** [*count*]

1 : a large military camp that is in another country or that is far from a country's center of activity ▪ an American *outpost* in Africa ▪ The city was established as a military *outpost* in the 1800s.

2 : a small town in a place that is far away from other towns or cities ▪ a remote *outpost* of the old British Empire

out•pour•ing /ˈaʊtˌpɔrɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*]

1 : an act of expressing an emotion or feeling in a very powerful way — often + *of* ▪ There was an *outpouring of* support for the president. [=many people expressed strong support for the president] ▪ an *outpouring of* love and affection ▪ *outpourings of* emotion

2 : a large amount of something that is given or received in a short period of time — often + *of* ▪ They received an *outpouring of* money for their charity.

¹out•put /ˈaʊtˌpʊt/ *noun, pl* **-puts**

1 : the amount of something that is produced by a person or thing [*noncount*] The country's yearly agricultural *output* [=*production*] has increased in recent years. ▪ the daily *output* of each worker [=the amount that each worker produces in a day] ▪ the author's literary *output* [*count*] stars with large energy *outputs*

2 *technical* **a** : something (such as power, energy, or information) that is produced by a machine or system [*noncount*] The computer's *output* is shown on this screen. [*count*] *outputs* of up to 400 watts **b** [*count*] : the place at which information, power, etc., comes out of a machine or system ▪ the television's video and audio *outputs* — compare INPUT

²output *verb* **-puts**; **-put•ted** *or* **-put**; **-put•ting** [+ *obj*] : to produce and send out (something, such as information) ▪ Computers *output* data very quickly. — compare INPUT

¹out•rage /ˈaʊtˌreɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-rag•es**

1 [*noncount*] : extreme anger : a strong feeling of unhappiness because of something bad, hurtful, or morally wrong ▪ Many people expressed *outrage* at the court's decision. ▪ Public *outrage* over the scandal was great. ▪ moral *outrage*

2 [*count*] : something that hurts people or is morally wrong ▪ The rule is an *outrage* against women. ▪ This is an *outrage*! I won't allow this kind of behavior to continue.

²outrage *verb* **-rages**; **-raged**; **-rag•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) very angry ▪ His comments *outraged* nearly everyone in the room. — often used as *(be) outraged* ▪ Many people *were outraged* at the court's decision. ▪ Parents *were outraged* by the teacher's actions.

out•ra•geous /aʊtˈreɪʤəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very bad or wrong in a way that causes anger : too bad to be accepted or allowed ▪ They will be punished for their *outrageous* behavior/conduct. ▪ This is *outrageous*! I will not put up with such treatment. ▪ *outrageous* prices

2 : very strange or unusual : surprising or shocking ▪ She's known for her wild hairdos and *outrageous* costumes. ▪ At

first it seemed like an *outrageous* idea, but then we realized that it wasn't so crazy after all. ▪ The article makes some *outrageous* claims about her personal life.
– **out·ra·geous·ly** *adv* ▪ a pair of *outrageously* expensive earrings – **out·ra·geous·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

out·rank /ˌaʊtˈræŋk/ *verb* **-ranks**; **-ranked**; **-rank·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to have a higher rank or position than (someone) ▪ A general *outranks* a colonel.
2 : to be more important than (someone or something) ▪ The only topic to *outrank* the economy this week was the war.

ou·tré /uˈtreɪ, *Brit* ˈuːtreɪ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : very strange, unusual, or shocking : BIZARRE ▪ His art is a bit too *outré* for most people to enjoy.

out·reach /ˌaʊtˈriːʧ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the activity or process of bringing information or services to people ▪ He is responsible for the campaign's *outreach* to college students. ▪ She was hired to do community *outreach* [=to do helpful things in the community] for the company. — often used before another noun ▪ They set up an *outreach* center for children in the inner city. ▪ community *outreach* programs/workers

out·rid·er /ˈaʊtˌraɪdɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person (such as a police officer) who rides a horse or motorcycle next to or in front of a vehicle that is carrying an important person as a form of protection

out·rig·ger /ˈaʊtˌrɪgɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*]
1 : a structure that is attached to the side of a boat or canoe to keep it from turning over in the water
2 : a boat or canoe that has an outrigger

[1]out·right /ˌaʊtˈraɪt/ *adv*
1 : in a full and complete way ▪ They rejected the idea *outright*. [=*altogether, completely*] ▪ She won the competition *outright*. ▪ The painting is now owned *outright* by the museum.
2 : quickly and completely : not gradually ▪ Those who were not killed *outright* [=*immediately*] later died of hunger. ▪ Their house was destroyed *outright* by the fire.
3 : in one payment of money ▪ I bought the car *outright*.
4 : in a direct and open way that does not hide anything ▪ Some people laughed *outright* when he told us his idea.

[2]out·right /ˈaʊtˌraɪt/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : complete and total — used to make a statement more forceful ▪ Your room is an *outright* mess! ▪ That's an *outright* lie!
2 : not limited in any way : done, made, or given in a complete way ▪ They passed an *outright* ban on guns. [=all guns were completely banned] ▪ an *outright* gift ▪ I was surprised by their *outright* rejection of the idea.

out·run /ˌaʊtˈrʌn/ *verb* **-runs**; **-ran** /-ˈræn/; **-run**; **-run·ning** [+ *obj*]
1 : to run or move faster than (someone or something) ▪ The rabbit had no chance of *outrunning* the dogs. ▪ His motorcycle could *outrun* any car on the road.
2 : to be or become more or greater than (something) ▪ The demand for the product has quickly *outrun* [=*exceeded, outpaced*] the company's ability to produce it.

out·sell /ˌaʊtˈsɛl/ *verb* **-sells**; **-sold** /-ˈsoʊld/; **-sell·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to be sold more than (something) ▪ Diet sodas are now beginning to *outsell* regular sodas in the supermarkets.
2 : to sell more than (another person, store, etc.) ▪ We've been *outselling* our competitors for the past five years.

out·set /ˈaʊtˌsɛt/ *noun* [*singular*] : the start or beginning of something ▪ There have been problems with the project ***from the outset***. ▪ ***From its very outset***, the company has produced the highest quality products. ▪ He made it clear ***at the outset*** that he is not going to quit his job. ▪ She set high goals for herself *at the outset* of her career.

out·shine /ˌaʊtˈʃaɪn/ *verb* **-shines**; **-shone** /-ˈʃoʊn, *Brit* -ˈʃɒn/ *or* **-shined**; **-shin·ing** [+ *obj*] : to do better than (someone or something) : to earn more respect or attention than (someone or something) ▪ They're determined to *outshine* [=*outdo, outperform*] their competition. ▪ She *outshines* all the other actors in the film.

[1]out·side /ˌaʊtˈsaɪd, ˈaʊtˌsaɪd/ *noun, pl* **-sides**
1 ***the outside*** : an area around or near something (such as a building) ▪ The house looks nice from *the outside*.
2 [*count*] : an outer side, edge, or surface of something — usually singular ▪ The door can be locked from the inside or *outside*. — often + *of* ▪ The *outside of* the building needs painting.
at the outside : at the most : at the greatest amount or limit ▪ The crowd numbered 10,000 *at the outside*. ▪ It took him an hour *at the outside* to finish. ▪ It costs, *at the outside*, $20.
on the outside **1** : on the outer side, edge, or surface of something ▪ The number 22 car tried to pass the leader *on the outside* (of the track). **2** *baseball* : on the side of home plate farthest from the batter ▪ The next pitch was a fastball *on the outside*. **3** — used to describe someone's appearance ▪ I might seem calm *on the outside*, but I'm actually really nervous. **4** : not in prison ▪ He looked forward to life *on the outside* again.

[2]outside *adj*
1 : located on or near an outer side, edge, or surface of something ▪ an *outside* wall/corner/door ▪ the *outside* edge of the foot ▪ (*baseball*) He struck out on an *outside* pitch.
2 *always used before a noun* **a** : located in or near the area around a building and not inside it ▪ She turned on the *outside* light to see what was making the noise. **b** : involving people who are not in the same building, group, or organization as you ▪ The phone will not let you make *outside* calls. ▪ an *outside* (telephone) line [=a telephone that allows you to talk to people who are not in the same building as you] ▪ The company hired an *outside* consultant. — see also *outside world* at [1]WORLD
3 *always used before a noun* : not involving your regular job or duties ▪ a businessman with few *outside* interests besides golf ▪ There were *outside* influences that affected his decision to retire early.
4 *always used before a noun* : barely possible : very unlikely ▪ We still have an *outside* [=*small, slight*] chance of winning.

[3]outside *adv*
1 a : in or to a place that is near but separate from another place ▪ He waited *outside* [=*out*] in the hall. **b** : in or to a place that is in the area around or near a building and not inside it : OUTDOORS ▪ The children love playing *outside*. ▪ It's raining *outside*. ▪ It's nice *outside*, with not a cloud in the sky. ▪ She took the dog *outside*. [=*out*] ▪ He ran *outside* to see what the noise was about. ▪ He looked *outside* at the snow.
2 : on the outer side, edge, or surface of something ▪ The candy was hard *outside* but chewy inside. ▪ The car seemed in good condition *outside*.

[4]outside *prep*
1 : in a place that is near but separate from (something) ▪ We waited *outside* the store. ▪ He kept his hands *outside* his pockets. ▪ There was a dog barking *outside* the house.
2 : beyond the limits or borders of (something) ▪ activities *outside* the law [=unlawful activities] ▪ She finished the race five seconds *outside* the record. ▪ We live *outside* the city. ▪ I have never traveled *outside* the U.S. before.
3 : not belonging to (a group or organization) ▪ No one *outside* the group knew of their plans. ▪ He hired consultants (from) *outside* the company.
4 : apart from (someone or something) : EXCEPT, BESIDES ▪ Nobody knew *outside* [=(more commonly) *outside of*] a few close friends.
outside of *chiefly US* : OUTSIDE ▪ We waited *outside of* the store. ▪ We live *outside of* the city. ▪ people *outside of* the group ▪ Nobody knew *outside of* a few close friends.
think outside the box see [1]BOX

out·sid·er /ˌaʊtˈsaɪdɚ, ˈaʊtˌsaɪdɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a person who does not belong to or is not accepted as part of a particular group or organization ▪ To *outsiders*, the ritual may seem strange. ▪ She felt like an *outsider* in her new school. — opposite INSIDER
2 *chiefly Brit* : a person or animal that is not expected to win a race or competition ▪ An *outsider* defeated the champion! ▪ She was a ***rank/complete outsider*** who managed to win.

out·size /ˈaʊtˌsaɪz/ *also* **out·sized** /ˈaʊtˌsaɪzd/ *adj* : very large in size ▪ *outsize* boots ▪ *outsized* cars and trucks

out·skirts /ˈaʊtˌskɚts/ *noun* [*plural*] : the parts of a city or town that are far from the center ▪ We live ***on the outskirts of*** town.

out·smart /ˌaʊtˈsmɑɚt/ *verb* **-smarts**; **-smart·ed**; **-smart·ing** [+ *obj*] : to defeat or trick (someone) by being more intelligent or clever ▪ He *outsmarted* [=*outwitted*] his attackers and escaped unharmed. ▪ The government must gather large amounts of information in order to *outsmart* its enemies.

out·source /ˈaʊtˌsoɚs/ *verb* **-sourc·es**; **-sourced**; **-sourc·ing** [+ *obj*] : to send away (some of a company's work) to be done by people outside the company ▪ The company *outsources* many of its jobs to less developed countries. ▪ The work was *outsourced* to a factory in China.
– **outsourcing** *noun* [*noncount*]

O

out•spend /ˌaʊtˈspɛnd/ *verb* **-spends**; **-spent**; **-spending** [+ *obj*] : to spend more money than (someone or something) ▪ He has *outspent* the other candidates in the election by millions of dollars.

out•spo•ken /ˌaʊtˈspoʊkən/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : talking in a free and honest way about your opinions ▪ She has been an *outspoken* advocate/supporter of women's rights throughout her life. ▪ an *outspoken* and controversial radio host ▪ My father was an *outspoken* critic of the war. = He was *outspoken* in his criticism of the war. ▪ She's very *outspoken* about political issues.

– **out•spo•ken•ly** *adv* ▪ She is *outspokenly* liberal/conservative in her views. – **out•spo•ken•ness** /aʊtˈspoʊkənnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

out•spread /ˌaʊtˈsprɛd/ *adj* : spread out completely : stretched out from the sides ▪ a bird gliding through the air on *outspread* [=*outstretched*] wings

out•stand•ing /aʊtˈstændɪŋ/ *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : extremely good or excellent ▪ Tonight we will honor the school's most *outstanding* students/teachers/athletes/performers. ▪ You did an *outstanding* job on the project. ▪ the *outstanding* quality of your work ▪ a wine that is *outstanding* in quality ▪ As a president, he was *outstanding* in many ways. ▪ Her novels are *outstanding* for their complex characters and interesting plots. ▪ The painting is an *outstanding* example of the artist's style.

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : easy to notice especially because of being important or very good ▪ There are some *outstanding* [=*conspicuous*] exceptions to this rule. ▪ *Outstanding* among the menu items were the tomato soup and the swordfish.

3 : not yet paid ▪ *outstanding* [=*unpaid*] bills ▪ She had several *outstanding* parking tickets in her car. ▪ He left a balance of 50 dollars *outstanding* on his account.

4 : continuing to exist ▪ It remains one of the long *outstanding* [=*unresolved*] problems in mathematics. ▪ There are several *outstanding* issues between the two countries.

– **out•stand•ing•ly** *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ an *outstandingly* fine example of his work ▪ He played *outstandingly*.

out•stay /ˌaʊtˈsteɪ/ *verb* **-stays**; **-stayed**; **-stay•ing**

outstay your welcome see ⁴WELCOME

out•stretched /ˌaʊtˈstrɛʧt/ *adj* : stretched out or extended from the sides ▪ She ran toward him with *outstretched* [=*open*, *outspread*] arms.

out•strip /ˌaʊtˈstrɪp/ *verb* **-strips**; **-stripped**; **-strip•ping** [+ *obj*]

1 : to be or become better, greater, or larger than (someone or something) ▪ Their achievements far *outstrip* [=*excel*, *surpass*] our own. ▪ The new hotel *outstrips* all other hotels in the area in size and luxury. ▪ Demand continues to *outstrip* [=*exceed*] supply.

2 : to do better than (someone or something) ▪ She *outstripped* [=*outdid*] all of her competitors.

3 : to go faster than (someone or something) ▪ The fullback *outstripped* the defenders and scored a touchdown.

out•ta /ˈaʊtə/ — used in writing to represent the sound of the phrase *out of* when it is spoken quickly ▪ Get *outta* my way! ▪ I'm *outta* here in half an hour. [=I'm leaving in half an hour] ✧ The pronunciation represented by *outta* is common in informal speech. The written form should be avoided except when trying to represent or record such speech.

out•take /ˈaʊtˌteɪk/ *noun, pl* **-takes** [*count*]

1 : a scene that is not used in the final version of a movie or television show

2 : a song that is not used for a music album ▪ a collection of the band's old *outtakes*

out–there /ˈaʊtˈðeɚ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *US, informal* : very strange or unusual : out of the ordinary ▪ *out-there* hairstyles ▪ Most of his ideas were really *out-there*.

out tray *noun, pl* ~ **trays** [*count*] *Brit* : OUT-BOX

out•vote /ˌaʊtˈvoʊt/ *verb* **-votes**; **-vot•ed**; **-vot•ing** [+ *obj*] : to defeat (a person or idea) by winning a larger number of votes ▪ I didn't like the idea, but I was *outvoted* by the rest of the group.

¹out•ward /ˈaʊtwɚd/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : of or relating to the way that someone or something looks or seems on the outside ▪ Despite her *outward* [=*apparent*] calm, she was extremely nervous about the interview. ▪ They showed no *outward* signs of fear, but they must have been afraid. ▪ She was waiting for some *outward* expression of his love. ▪ To/By/From ***all outward appearances***, their marriage was quite normal.

2 : able to be seen ▪ He has great *outward* [=*physical*] beauty, but is he beautiful on the inside? [=is he a good person?] ▪ There was no *outward* [=*visible*] evidence that the parents abused the child. ▪ *outward* symptoms of the disease

3 : moving or directed away from something ▪ The *outward* migration of people from the city has hurt the city's economy greatly. ▪ He made a slight *outward* movement with his right hand. — opposite INWARD

²outward (*chiefly US*) *or chiefly Brit* **out•wards** /ˈaʊtwɚdz/ *adv*

1 : toward the outside of something : away from a center ▪ The window faces *outward* toward the street. ▪ Stand with your heels together, toes pointing *outward*. ▪ air flowing *outwards* from the lungs — opposite INWARD

2 : away from yourself ▪ She turns her students' attention *outward* [=away from their own lives] by making them aware of different cultures. ▪ The country has become more ***outward looking*** [=thinking about other people or places] in its economic policies.

out•ward•ly /ˈaʊtwɚdli/ *adv* : on the outside ▪ The two brothers may be *outwardly* similar, but their personalities couldn't be more different. : in a way that can be seen ▪ Though extremely nervous, she was able to remain *outwardly* calm during the interview. ▪ an *outwardly* friendly person ▪ *Outwardly*, their marriage seemed quite normal. — opposite INWARDLY

out•weigh /ˌaʊtˈweɪ/ *verb* **-weighs**; **-weighed**; **-weighing** [+ *obj*] : to be greater than (someone or something) in weight, value, or importance ▪ She *outweighs* her sister by 10 pounds. ▪ The advantages far *outweigh* [=*exceed*] the disadvantages. ▪ This issue *outweighs* all others in importance.

out•wit /ˌaʊtˈwɪt/ *verb* **-wits**; **-wit•ted**; **-wit•ting** [+ *obj*] : to defeat or trick (someone) by being more intelligent or clever : OUTSMART ▪ The fox managed to *outwit* the hunter by hiding in a tree. ▪ They thought they had *outwitted* the new teacher.

out•work•er /ˈaʊtˌwɚkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *Brit* : a person who does work for a business, company, etc., at home

out•worn /ˌaʊtˈwoɚn/ *adj* : no longer useful or acceptable : not modern or current : OUTDATED ▪ an *outworn* set of beliefs

ouzo /ˈuːzoʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a strong, clear liquor from Greece

ova *plural of* OVUM

¹oval /ˈoʊvəl/ *adj* : having the shape of an egg : shaped like a circle that is longer than it is wide ▪ an *oval* mirror ▪ *oval* leaves

²oval *noun, pl* **ovals** [*count*] : something that has the shape of an egg ▪ The racetrack is an *oval*.

Oval Office *noun*

the Oval Office : the office of the U.S. President in the White House

ovar•i•an /oʊˈverijən/ *adj* : of or relating to an ovary ▪ *ovarian* cancer

ova•ry /ˈoʊvəri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*]

1 : one of usually two organs in women and female animals that produce eggs and female hormones

2 : the part of a flower where seeds are formed — see picture at FLOWER

ova•tion /oʊˈveɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] : an occurrence in which a group of people at a play, speech, sporting event, etc., show enthusiastic approval or appreciation by clapping their hands together over and over ▪ They gave her a long *ovation*. [=they applauded her for a long time] ▪ He was welcomed by/with a warm *ovation* when he came out onto the stage. — see also STANDING OVATION

ov•en /ˈʌvən/ *noun, pl* **-ens** [*count*] : a piece of cooking equipment that is used for baking or roasting food ▪ Preheat the *oven* to 350 degrees. ▪ Please take the pizza out of the *oven*. ▪ brick *ovens* ▪ *oven* roasted potatoes — see picture at KITCHEN; see also CONVECTION OVEN, DUTCH OVEN, MICROWAVE OVEN, TOASTER OVEN

have a bun in the oven see BUN

like an oven *informal* : very hot ▪ Open the window. It's *like an oven* in here.

oven mitt *noun, pl* ~ **mitts** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a mitten that is made out of a thick material and used for taking hot dishes out of an oven — called also (*Brit*) *oven glove*

oven•proof /ˈʌvənˌpruːf/ *adj* : able to be used in an oven ▪ *ovenproof* dishes

oven–ready *adj, always used before a noun* : able to be

cooked in an oven with no additional preparation ▪ an *oven-ready* chicken

[1]over /ˈoʊvɚ/ *adv*

1 : in an upward and forward direction across something ▪ The wall's too high for us to climb *over*. ▪ We came to a stream and jumped *over*. ▪ Throw the ball *over*.

2 a : downward from an upright position ▪ She leaned *over* and kissed him. ▪ I hurt my back bending *over* [=*down*] to pick up my child. **b :** downward to a flat or horizontal position ▪ She knocked *over* the lamp. ▪ He tripped and fell *over*. [=*down*] ▪ A couple of trees fell *over* during the storm.

3 : so that the bottom or opposite side is on top ▪ The baby rolled *over* onto his stomach. ▪ Turn/Flip your cards *over*.

4 a : from one place to another place ▪ We sent *over* a card and a basket of fruit. ▪ The teacher called the three girls *over*. ▪ Come *over* here. I need to talk to you. ▪ I'm flying *over* to London this afternoon. ▪ He ran *over* to his neighbor's house to see what was going on. ▪ Let's head *over* to the cafeteria. ▪ I'll be right *over*. ▪ Could you move *over* a little, please? I need some more space. ▪ Do you want to come *over* to my place? **b :** to your home ▪ I invited some friends *over* for dinner. ▪ They're nice. Why don't you ask them *over* some time? **c :** in a particular place ▪ Their house is two streets *over* (from here). ▪ They're building a new library *over* by the high school. ▪ Who's that man *over* by the door? ▪ It's summer now *over* in Australia. ▪ I grew up in the next town *over*. [=the town that is next to this town]

5 : from one person or group to another ▪ And now *over* to our foreign correspondent for the news from abroad. ▪ It's mine! Hand it *over*! ▪ They turned *over* the stolen money to the police. — often used figuratively ▪ After years of supporting the Democrats, she suddenly went *over* to the Republican side. ▪ He's gone *over* to the opposition.

6 : more than an expected or stated amount or number ▪ The show ran a minute *over*. = The show ran *over* by a minute. ▪ The condition is most common in women 65 ***and over***. ▪ Children eight *and over* [=children who are eight years old and older] may participate in the contest. ▪ At this restaurant, parties of six ***or over*** will have a 20 percent gratuity added to their bill.

7 : remaining and not used ▪ We ate the turkey that was left *over* from Thanksgiving Day dinner. ▪ Most of the money would be spent on fixing the house with some left *over* for emergencies.

8 : during or throughout a period of time : until a later time (such as the next day) ▪ Do you have enough money to tide you *over*? ▪ Feel free to stay *over* [=*overnight*] if you don't want to drive home tonight. ▪ Mom, can I sleep *over* [=can I spend the night] at Carrie's house?

9 : so as to cover the entire surface of something ▪ The sky had clouded *over* [=it had become covered with clouds], and it was beginning to rain. ▪ The empty house's windows had been boarded *over* several years ago. ▪ He's become famous the world *over*. [=throughout the world]

10 a : in a complete and thorough way ▪ I'll have to talk the matter *over* with my wife. ▪ She's still thinking it *over*. **b :** from the beginning to the end ▪ Read it *over* [=*through*] and let me know what you think.

11 a *chiefly US* **:** one more time : AGAIN ▪ You've done it wrong. Do it *over*. ▪ Let's start *over* (again) from the beginning. ▪ He lost the computer file and had to do his assignment *over*. **b** — used to say how many times something is done or repeated ▪ I had to read the poem ***twice over*** [=two times] before I understood its meaning. **c** — used to say that something is done or happens repeatedly ▪ She became a millionaire many times *over*. [=she earned many millions of dollars] ▪ I remind him ***over and over*** (again) not to leave the door open. ▪ Say the lines *over and over* until you have memorized them.

12 — used when talking on a radio to show that a message is complete ▪ "We are ready for takeoff instructions. *Over*."

all over see [2]ALL

over (and done) with **:** finished or completed ▪ Don't worry. The operation will be *over with* before you know it. ▪ I'd like to get this *over with* as soon as possible. ▪ No one wants to be here, so let's just get this meeting *over with*. ▪ I'm just glad to have the test *over and done with*. ▪ The past is *over and done with*.

[2]over *prep*

1 : from, to, or at a place that is higher than (someone or something) : ABOVE ▪ The sun's coming up *over* the mountain. ▪ She looked at him *over* the top of her glasses. ▪ He stood *over* me [=he stood near me while I was sitting, kneeling, etc.] and asked what I was doing. ▪ Their balcony looks out *over* the city. ▪ He looked *over* the fence. ▪ A plane was flying low *over* the trees. ▪ The meat was cooked *over* an open fire.

2 : on top of (something) ▪ Someone hit him *over* [=*on*] the head with a rock. ▪ She slung the bag *over* her shoulder. ▪ They served grilled chicken breast *over* [=*on*] a bed of rice. : so as to cover (something) ▪ His hat was pulled low *over* his eyes.

3 : beyond and down from (something) ▪ Throw the rocks *over* the side of the boat. ▪ He fell *over* the cliff's edge. ▪ She knocked the glass *over* the edge of the table.

4 a : from one side to the other side of (something or someone) ▪ We've just crossed *over* the border into Canada. ▪ walking *over* [=*across*] a bridge ▪ Excuse me, I need to reach *over* you to get the salt. ▪ Tomato vines grew up and *over* the fence. **b :** upward and across (something) ▪ We both jumped *over* the stream. ▪ They couldn't climb *over* the wall, so they dug a hole under/underneath it. **c :** on the other side of (something) ▪ Our house is just *over* that hill.

5 : in the direction of (something) ▪ Hey, look *over* there! ▪ We're *over* here! ▪ those trees *over* yonder

6 : more than (a specified number or amount) ▪ I've been waiting for *over* an hour. ▪ We haven't seen each other in *over* a year. ▪ The condition is most common in women *over* 65. ▪ It was really hot yesterday. It must have been *over* 100 degrees. ▪ They had *over* 300 people at their wedding. ▪ That car costs ***well over*** [=much more than] $50,000.

7 — used to say that a person or thing is better than (someone or something else) ▪ The new model has several advantages *over* the old one. ▪ This is a big improvement *over* our last apartment. ▪ I would choose you *over* any other woman in the world. ▪ She now has a two-minute lead *over* [=she is two minutes ahead of] the other runners. ▪ When it comes to creative thinking, humans ***have it over*** [=are better than] computers. = When it comes to creative thinking, humans have the advantage *over* computers.

8 : in a position of power and authority that allows a person or thing to control (someone or something) ▪ We must respect those *over* us. ▪ The vice president presides *over* every meeting. ▪ She should be given more authority *over* her staff. ▪ We have no control *over* the situation. ▪ countries that hold power *over* their neighbors ▪ In this case, federal law takes precedence *over* state law.

9 a : so as to cover the surface of (something) ▪ A strange expression came *over* his face. ▪ People were boarding *over* their windows in preparation for the storm. **b :** in every part of (a place) ▪ These trees once flourished *over* [=*throughout*] much of North America.

10 : throughout or during (a particular amount of time) ▪ I'll think about it *over* the weekend and give you my answer on Monday. ▪ He has accomplished many remarkable things *over* the course of his career. ▪ The festival is spread (out) *over* three days. ▪ happening/occurring/developing *over* a period of 20 years ▪ *Over* the past 25 years, she has been a valuable asset to our company. ▪ I've come to understand him better *over* the years. ▪ ***Over time***, the paper begins to turn yellow and brittle.

11 : by using (a radio, television, computer, etc.) ▪ I heard it *over* [=*on*] the radio. ▪ We spoke *over* the phone just yesterday. ▪ sending messages *over* the Internet ▪ The game was broadcast *over* the air/airwaves. [=on television or the radio]

12 : because of (someone or something) ▪ Don't get angry *over* [=*about*] something so silly. ▪ He got into trouble *over* a comment about his wife's mother. ▪ She was crying *over* her old boyfriend. ▪ Afterwards, we laughed *over* the incident.

13 : concerning or regarding (something) ▪ There is still some controversy *over* [=*about*] the use of the drug. ▪ a dispute *over* the land ▪ the debate *over* assisted suicide

14 — used to describe something that is done while some activity (such as a meal) is taking place ▪ I plan to meet with my advisers *over* lunch. [=while we eat lunch together] ▪ We sat *over* our wine [=drinking our wine] and talked.

15 : finished with (something) : past or beyond (something) ▪ I think we're *over* the worst of it. Things should get better from now on. ▪ After she got *over* the initial surprise of being tricked, she started getting angry. ▪ He's upset now, but he'll ***get over it*** [=he will stop being upset about it] soon.

16 : without being stopped or prevented by (something) : DESPITE ▪ She spoke to the police *over* the objections of her lawyer. ▪ *Over* the protests of several members, the committee passed the bill.

17 : without including or considering (someone or some-

O

thing) ▪ You can skip *over* that paragraph. ▪ I agree with what you've said, but you passed *over* an important point.

18 : more loudly and clearly than (another sound) ▪ The players couldn't hear their coach *over* [=*above*] the roar of the crowd. ▪ talking/shouting *over* the noise of the engines

all over see ²ALL

over against — used to describe things that are being compared or that are somehow opposed to each other ▪ comparing the results of one method *over against* another

over and above : in addition to (something) : along with (something) ▪ *Over and above* the fact that I don't like cats, I am allergic to them. ▪ We each received a bonus *over and above* our regular paychecks.

³over *adj, not used before a noun* : having reached the end : FINISHED ▪ When is this class *over*? ▪ And before we knew it, the storm was *over*. ▪ Those days are *over*. ▪ When it's *over*, it's *over*. You don't get a second chance. ▪ It's *over* between them. [=their relationship has ended]

over easy *not used before a noun, US, of eggs* : fried on one side then turned and fried for a short time on the other side ▪ He ordered two eggs *over easy*.

over- /ˌoʊvɚ/ *prefix*

1 a : too much or too great ▪ *over*confident ▪ *over*crowded ▪ *over*qualified ▪ *over*ripe **b** : so as to be better or beyond ▪ *over*achieve ▪ *over*take

2 : very or extremely ▪ *over*joyed

3 : above ▪ *over*coat ▪ *over*hang

4 : forward and often downward ▪ *over*bite ▪ *over*board

over·abun·dance /ˌoʊvɚrəˈbʌndəns/ *noun, pl* **-danc·es** [*count*] *chiefly US* : an amount that is too much — often + *of* ▪ There is an *overabundance of* lead in the water.

over·achiev·er /ˌoʊvɚrəˈʧiːvɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : someone who has much more success than is normal or expected especially at a young age ▪ She is an *overachiever* who plans to attend a top college. — opposite UNDERACHIEVER

– **over·achieve** /ˌoʊvɚrəˈʧiːv/ *verb* **-achieves**; **-achieved**; **-achiev·ing** [*no obj*] ▪ The team *overachieved* last year and won the title. ▪ an *overachieving* student

over·act /ˌoʊvɚˈækt/ *verb* **-acts**; **-act·ed**; **-act·ing** [*no obj*] *disapproving* : to show too much emotion when you are acting in a play, movie, etc. ▪ His tendency to *overact* made his performance less realistic.

over·ac·tive /ˌoʊvɚˈæktɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : too active especially in a way that produces a bad result ▪ She has an *overactive* bladder. ▪ His crazy ideas are products of an *overactive* imagination.

– **over·ac·tiv·i·ty** /ˌoʊvɚrækˈtɪvəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ This condition is caused by *overactivity* of the thyroid gland.

¹over·age /ˌoʊvɚˈeɪʤ/ *adj* : of an age that is greater than what is normal or allowed ▪ The college has many *overage* students. ▪ The players were banned from the league for being *overage*. — opposite UNDERAGE

²over·age /ˈoʊvɚɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ag·es** [*count*] : an amount by which something (such as a payment) is too much ▪ They paid me back the *overage*. ▪ She kept track of the cost *overages*.

¹over·all /ˌoʊvɚˈɑːl/ *adv*

1 : with everyone or everything included ▪ He scored highest *overall*. ▪ She figured out what it would cost *overall*. [=*altogether*]

2 : as a whole : in general ▪ He made a few mistakes but did well *overall*. ▪ *Overall*, the project was successful.

²over·all /ˌoʊvɚˈɑːl/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : including everyone or everything ▪ your *overall* score after two rounds ▪ What is the *overall* [=*total*] cost?

2 : viewed as a whole or in general ▪ His mistake didn't change my *overall* impression of him. ▪ Your *overall* health is sound. ▪ She likes the *overall* quality of the product. ▪ The scratch didn't affect the car's *overall* appearance.

³over·all /ˈoʊvɚˌɑːl/ *noun, pl* **-alls**

1 *overalls* [*plural*] *US* : a pair of pants with an extra piece attached that covers the chest and has straps that go over the shoulders ▪ wearing (a pair of) *overalls* — called also (*Brit*) *dungarees*; see color picture on page C14

2 [*count*] *Brit* : a loose coat that is worn over clothes so that they do not get dirty : SMOCK

3 *overalls* [*plural*] *Brit* : a piece of clothing that is worn over other clothes to protect them ▪ The mechanic was dressed in (a pair of) *overalls*. [=(*US*) *coveralls*]

over·arch·ing /ˌoʊvɚˈɑɚʧɪŋ/ *adj, formal* : including or influencing every part of something ▪ the book's *overarching* theme ▪ Computer downtime is an *overarching* problem in all departments.

over·arm /ˈoʊvɚˌɑɚm/ *adj, Brit* : OVERHAND ▪ He made an *overarm* throw.

– **overarm** *adv, Brit* ▪ He threw the ball *overarm*.

over·awe /ˌoʊvɚˈɑː/ *verb* **-awes**; **-awed**; **-aw·ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) unable to think, speak, or behave normally because of a strong feeling of respect and fear — usually used as *(be) overawed* ▪ She has competed in the finals before, so she won't *be overawed* by the experience.

over·bal·ance /ˌoʊvɚˈbæləns/ *verb* **-anc·es**; **-anced**; **-anc·ing** *Brit* : to lose your balance [*no obj*] He *overbalanced* and fell off the stool. [+ *obj*] She tried to reach the vase but *overbalanced* herself and fell off the stool.

over·bear·ing /ˌoʊvɚˈberɪŋ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *disapproving* : often trying to control the behavior of other people in an annoying or unwanted way ▪ He had to deal with his *overbearing* mother. ▪ Her husband's *overbearing* manner made her miserable.

over·bite /ˈoʊvɚˌbaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-bites** [*count*] : a condition in which your upper teeth are too far in front of your lower teeth ▪ He has a severe *overbite*.

over·blown /ˌoʊvɚˈbloʊn/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *disapproving* : made to seem very important, intelligent, or great especially in order to impress people ▪ *overblown* [=*pretentious*] claims/rhetoric ▪ The problem is *overblown*. [=it has been exaggerated; it is not as bad as people say it is]

over·board /ˈoʊvɚˌboɚd/ *adv* : over the side of a ship into the water ▪ He threw/tossed the fish *overboard*. ▪ The boy fell *overboard* and almost drowned. ▪ One of the sailors fell into the water, and someone shouted "***Man overboard***!" — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The managers had to throw the plan *overboard* [=had to abandon the plan] because it was too expensive.

go overboard *informal* : to do something in a way that is excessive or extreme : to do too much of something ▪ Don't *go overboard* on/with the spices. [=do not add too many spices] ▪ She *went overboard* with the decorations.

over·book /ˌoʊvɚˈbʊk/ *verb* **-books**; **-booked**; **-booking** : to allow too many people to buy tickets or to reserve seats, tables, rooms, etc. [*no obj*] The hotel/restaurant *overbooked*. [+ *obj*] The flight was *overbooked*, and I got bumped off. ▪ The airline *overbooked* the flight. ▪ The doctor's office called and said that they *overbooked* the appointments for today. — compare DOUBLE-BOOK

over·bur·den /ˌoʊvɚˈbɚdən/ *verb* **-dens**; **-dened**; **-dening** [+ *obj*] : to give (someone or something) too much work, worry, etc. : to burden (someone or something) too much ▪ She *overburdened* me with work/guilt. ▪ Why *overburden* yourself when people are offering to help? — often used as *(be) overburdened* ▪ He *was overburdened* by work. ▪ The Web site *was overburdened* with a high amount of traffic.

over·ca·pac·i·ty /ˌoʊvɚkəˈpæsəti/ *noun, technical* : a situation in which an industry, company, etc., has or produces more of something than it is able to sell or use [*noncount*] problems with *overcapacity* [*singular*] The airlines are lowering their prices because of an *overcapacity* of seats.

over·cast /ˈoʊvɚˌkæst, *Brit* ˈəʊvəˌkɑːst/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : covered with clouds ▪ The sky was *overcast*. : darkened by clouds ▪ It was an *overcast* morning. ▪ They worked in *overcast* conditions.

over·charge /ˌoʊvɚˈʧɑɚʤ/ *verb* **-charg·es**; **-charged**; **-charg·ing**

1 : to charge too much for something : to make someone pay too much money for something [*no obj*] He *overcharges* for car repairs. [+ *obj*] He *overcharges* his customers for car repairs. ▪ The store *overcharged* me for my skirt. ▪ The customer was *overcharged* (by) $10. — opposite UNDERCHARGE

2 [+ *obj*] : to give too much of an electric charge to (a battery) ▪ I *overcharged* the battery.

over·coat /ˈoʊvɚˌkoʊt/ *noun, pl* **-coats** [*count*] : a long coat that is worn to keep a person warm during cold weather — see color picture on page C15

over·come /ˌoʊvɚˈkʌm/ *verb* **-comes**; **-came** /-ˈkeɪm/; **-come**; **-com·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to defeat (someone or something) ▪ After a tough battle, they *overcame* the enemy.

2 : to successfully deal with or gain control of (something difficult) ▪ a story about *overcoming* adversity ▪ She *overcame* a leg injury and is back running again. ▪ He *overcame* [=*conquered*] his fear of heights and climbed the ladder.

3 : to affect (someone) very strongly or severely — usually used as *(be) overcome* ▪ The people trapped in the burning building *were overcome* by the heat and smoke. ▪ The family *was overcome* [=*overwhelmed*] by grief.

over•com•pen•sate /ˌoʊvəˈkɑːmpənˌseɪt/ *verb* **-sates**; **-sat•ed**; **-sat•ing** [*no obj*] : to try to make up for something that is lacking or bad by doing too much of something else ▪ He *overcompensated* for his lateness by showing up two hours early the next day. ▪ She *overcompensated* for her bad skin by wearing too much makeup.

over•com•pli•cate /ˌoʊvəˈkɑːmplәˌkeɪt/ *verb* **-cates**; **-cat•ed**; **-cat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something) too difficult to understand ▪ Don't *overcomplicate* the recipe.
– **overcomplicated** *adj* ▪ These instructions are *overcomplicated*. [=are too complicated]

over•con•fi•dent /ˌoʊvəˈkɑːnfәdәnt/ *adj* : having too much confidence about something ▪ He was *overconfident* about passing the test and didn't study for it.

over•cook /ˌoʊvəˈkʊk/ *verb* **-cooks**; **-cooked**; **-cook•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cook (food) for too long ▪ She always *overcooks* steak. — usually used as *(be) overcooked* ▪ My hamburger was *overcooked*. [=*overdone*] ▪ *overcooked* chicken — opposite UNDERCOOK

over•crowd•ed /ˌoʊvəˈkraʊdәd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : filled with too many people or things ▪ The prison is very *overcrowded*. ▪ They are forced to live in *overcrowded* conditions. ▪ This train feels a bit *overcrowded*. ▪ *overcrowded* schools and hospitals

over•crowd•ing /ˌoʊvəˈkraʊdɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a situation in which there are too many people or things in one place ▪ They need to reduce *overcrowding* in the prison.

over•do /ˌoʊvəˈduː/ *verb* **-does** /-ˈdʌz/; **-did** /-ˈdɪd/; **-done** /-ˈdʌn/; **-do•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to do too much of (something) : to do (something) in an excessive or extreme way ▪ You should exercise every day, but don't *overdo it*. ▪ The acting in that play was badly *overdone*.
2 : to use too much of (something) ▪ Don't *overdo* the salt in this recipe. ▪ I think you might have *overdone* it with the decorations. [=used too many decorations] ▪ Love is a theme that is *overdone* [=used too often] in the movies.
3 : to cook (food) for too long ▪ The cook *overdid* the hamburgers. ▪ My steak was slightly *overdone*. [=*overcooked*] ▪ an *overdone* steak

[1]over•dose /ˈoʊvəˌdoʊs/ *noun, pl* **-dos•es** [*count*]
1 : an amount of a drug or medicine that is too much and usually dangerous ▪ She died from a cocaine *overdose*. — often + *of* ▪ He ***took/had an overdose of*** pills.
2 : an amount of something that is too much ▪ a sugar *overdose* — often + *of* ▪ An *overdose of* horror movies gave him nightmares.

[2]over•dose /ˌoʊvəˈdoʊs/ *verb* **-dos•es**; **-dosed**; **-dos•ing** [*no obj*] : to take too much of a drug or medicine : to take an overdose of a drug or medicine — usually + *on* ▪ She *overdosed on* tranquilizers and fell into a coma. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ She *overdosed on* romance novels over the summer.

over•draft /ˈoʊvəˌdræft, *Brit* ˈəʊvəˌdrɑːft/ *noun, pl* **-drafts** [*count*] : an amount of money that is spent by someone using a bank account that is more than the amount available in the account : an amount that is overdrawn from an account

over•draw /ˌoʊvəˈdrɑː/ *verb* **-draws**; **-drew** /-ˈdruː/; **-drawn** /-ˈdrɑːn/; **-draw•ing** [+ *obj*] : to withdraw more money from (an account) than is available ▪ She *overdrew* her account by $100.
– **overdrawn** *adj* ▪ Your account is *overdrawn*. ▪ an *overdrawn* account ▪ Customers must pay a fee for being *overdrawn* on their accounts.

over•dress /ˌoʊvəˈdrɛs/ *verb* **-dress•es**; **-dressed**; **-dress•ing** [*no obj*] : to dress in clothes that are too fancy, formal, or warm for an occasion ▪ He *overdressed* for such a casual party. — opposite UNDERDRESS
– **overdressed** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ He was *overdressed* for the party. ▪ I was *overdressed* for the weather.

over•drive /ˈoʊvəˌdraɪv/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a gear in an automobile that allows it to be driven at higher speeds ▪ He put/shifted the car into *overdrive*.
2 : a state of great activity especially in order to achieve something ▪ His acting career is in *overdrive*. ▪ The reporters went into *overdrive* to finish their stories on time.

over•due /ˌoʊvəˈduː, *Brit* ˌəʊvəˈdjuː/ *adj*
1 : not paid at an expected or required time ▪ She reminded him that the rent was *overdue*. ▪ He has many *overdue* bills.
2 : not appearing or presented by a stated, expected, or required time ▪ The train is 10 minutes *overdue*. ▪ Her baby is *overdue* by one week. [=her baby has not been born yet and it is a week since its birth was expected] ▪ an *overdue* library book
3 — used to say that something should have happened or been done before now ▪ His promotion is long *overdue*. = He is long *overdue* for a promotion. [=he should have been given a promotion by now] ▪ Repairs on that building are long *overdue*.

over•ea•ger /ˌoʊvəˈiːgə/ *adj, chiefly US* : too eager ▪ He seemed *overeager* to pin the blame on someone. ▪ an *overeager* opponent

over•eat /ˌoʊvəˈiːt/ *verb* **-eats**; **-ate** /-ˈeɪt/; **-eat•en** /-ˈiːtn̩/; **-eat•ing** [*no obj*] : to eat more than is needed or more than is healthy : to eat too much ▪ When I'm tired or stressed, I tend to *overeat*.
– **overeating** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *Overeating* is unhealthy.

over•em•pha•size *also Brit* **over•em•pha•sise** /ˌoʊvə-ˈɛmfәˌsaɪz/ *verb* **-siz•es**; **-sized**; **-siz•ing** [+ *obj*] : to treat (something) with more importance than is needed or proper : to emphasize (something) too strongly ▪ The teacher tends to *overemphasize* the value of tests. ▪ The importance of a healthy diet cannot be *overemphasized*. [=a healthy diet is extremely important]
– **over•em•pha•sis** /ˌoʊvəˈɛmfәsәs/ *noun* [*singular*] The article has/puts an *overemphasis* on the role of the news media in politics. [*noncount*] There has been some *overemphasis* on testing.

over•es•ti•mate /ˌoʊvəˈɛstәˌmeɪt/ *verb* **-mates**; **-mat•ed**; **-mat•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to estimate (something) as being greater than the actual size, quantity, or number ▪ I *overestimated* the number of chairs we would need for the party. [=I thought we would need more chairs than we actually did] ▪ We *overestimated* the value of the coins.
2 : to think of (someone or something) as being greater in ability, influence, or value than that person or thing actually is ▪ She *overestimated* his ability to do the job. ▪ The importance of a good education cannot be *overestimated*. [=a good education is very important] — opposite UNDERESTIMATE
– **over•es•ti•mate** /ˌoʊvəˈɛstәmәt/ *noun, pl* **-mates** [*count*] ▪ Cost *overestimates* in the budget left us with extra money in the end. – **over•es•ti•ma•tion** /ˌoʊvəˌɛstə-ˈmeɪʃәn/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*]

over•ex•cited /ˌoʊvəɹɪkˈsaɪtәd/ *adj* : too excited ▪ The children got *overexcited* and couldn't get to sleep.

over•ex•pose /ˌoʊvəɹɪkˈspoʊz/ *verb* **-pos•es**; **-posed**; **-pos•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to leave (something) without covering or protection for too long ▪ It is harmful to *overexpose* your skin to the sun's rays.
2 : to let too much light fall on (film in a camera) when you are taking a photograph ▪ He *overexposed* the picture/film. ▪ a badly *overexposed* picture/image
3 : to give too much public attention or notice to (someone or something) ▪ He has been *overexposed* by/in the media. ▪ an *overexposed* celebrity
– **over•ex•po•sure** /ˌoʊvəɹɪkˈspoʊʒə/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *overexposure* of the skin ▪ The photograph was ruined by *overexposure*. ▪ a celebrity whose career has been harmed by *overexposure*

over•ex•tend /ˌoʊvəɹɪkˈstɛnd/ *verb* **-tends**; **-tend•ed**; **-tend•ing** [+ *obj*] : to extend or stretch (something) too far ▪ He *overextended* a muscle in his arm. ▪ She *overextended* her back.
overextend yourself **1** : to try to do too much ▪ Don't *overextend yourself* or else you'll burn out. **2** : to spend more money than you can afford to spend ▪ Young people with credit cards often *overextend themselves*.
– **overextended** *adj* ▪ people who are financially *overextended*

over•feed /ˌoʊvəˈfiːd/ *verb* **-feeds**; **-fed** /-ˈfɛd/; **-feed•ing** [+ *obj*] : to give too much food to (someone or something) ▪ Don't *overfeed* the animals.

over•fill /ˌoʊvəˈfɪl/ *verb* **-fills**; **-filled**; **-fill•ing** [+ *obj*] : to fill a container with too much of something ▪ He *overfilled* the pail and the water spilled out. ▪ an *overfilled* trash can

over•fish /ˌoʊvəˈfɪʃ/ *verb* **-fish•es**; **-fished**; **-fish•ing** [+ *obj*] : to catch too many fish so that there are not enough remaining — often used as *(be) overfished* ▪ The lake has *been*

overfished by both commercial and sport fishermen.
– **overfishing** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Several species were nearly wiped out by *overfishing*.

[1]over•flow /ˌoʊvəˈfloʊ/ *verb* **-flows**; **-flowed**; **-flow•ing**
1 : to flow over the edge or top of (something) [+ *obj*] The river *overflowed* its banks. [*no obj*] The creek *overflows* every spring. ▪ The water in the tub *overflowed*. — often used figuratively ▪ The large crowd filled the room and *overflowed* into the lobby.
2 [+ *obj*] : to fill or cover (something) completely ▪ Books and papers *overflowed* his desk. ▪ The paragraph *overflowed* the page.
3 [*no obj*] : to be completely filled with something : to be so filled that there is not enough room for anything or anyone more ▪ *overflowing* trash cans — often + *with* ▪ His desk was *overflowing with* papers. ▪ The hotels are all ***filled/full to overflowing with*** tourists. — often used figuratively ▪ Her heart was *overflowing with* joy.

[2]over•flow /ˈoʊvəˌfloʊ/ *noun, pl* **-flows** [*count*]
1 : an act of flowing over the edge or top of something — usually singular; often + *of* ▪ The rescuers put up sandbags to stop the *overflow of* the river.
2 a : the amount of something that flows over the edge or top of something else — usually singular ▪ The *overflow* from the river flooded the field. **b** : the number of people or things that goes over a limit — usually singular; often + *of* ▪ The police tried to control the *overflow of* traffic. ▪ The company hired more people to handle the *overflow of* phone calls. — sometimes used before another noun ▪ The band played to an *overflow* crowd. [=a crowd larger than a place is meant to hold]
3 : a pipe or container for liquid that overflows from something else

over•fly /ˌoʊvəˈflaɪ/ *verb* **-flies**; **-flew** /-ˈfluː/; **-flown** /-ˈfloʊn/; **-fly•ing** [+ *obj*] : to fly over (a place) ▪ The jets *overflew* the stadium.

over•ground /ˈoʊvəˌgraʊnd/ *adv, Brit* : on or above the ground ▪ These trains all run *overground*.
– **overground** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ an *overground* train [=(*US*) an aboveground train]

over•grow /ˌoʊvəˈgroʊ/ *verb* **-grows**; **-grew** /-ˈgruː/; **-grown** /-ˈgroʊn/; **-grow•ing** [+ *obj*] : to grow in an uncontrolled way and completely cover or fill (something) ▪ The weeds have *overgrown* the garden.
– **over•growth** /ˈoʊvəˌgroʊθ/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He cut down the *overgrowth*. ▪ Prune the branches to prevent *overgrowth*.

overgrown *adj*
1 : covered with plants that have grown in an uncontrolled way ▪ The garden is *overgrown* with weeds. ▪ an *overgrown* path
2 : grown to a size that is unusually or too large ▪ an *overgrown* plant ▪ an *overgrown* ego ▪ He acts like an *overgrown* child.

over•hand /ˈoʊvəˌhænd/ *adj, US* : made with the hand brought forward and down from above the shoulder ▪ an *overhand* [=(*Brit*) *overarm*] pitch/throw ▪ an *overhand* tennis stroke — compare UNDERHAND
– **overhand** *adv* ▪ I can pitch *overhand* or underhand.

[1]over•hang /ˈoʊvəˌhæŋ/ *verb* **-hangs**; **-hung** /-ˌhʌŋ/; **-hang•ing** [+ *obj*] : to stick out beyond or hang over (something) ▪ A cliff *overhangs* the trail. ▪ The patio was *overhung* by a canopy. ▪ The path was *overhung* with willow trees.
– **overhanging** *adj* ▪ an *overhanging* cliff ▪ The path was shaded by *overhanging* branches.

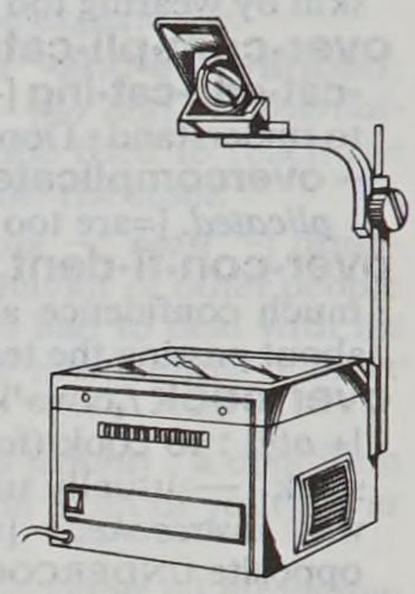
[2]overhang *noun, pl* **-hangs** [*count*]
1 : a part that sticks out or hangs over something ▪ The *overhang* of the roof cast a shadow on the ground.
2 : the amount by which something hangs over something else ▪ a five-foot *overhang*

over•haul /ˌoʊvəˈhɑːl/ *verb* **-hauls**; **-hauled**; **-haul•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to look at every part of (something) and repair or replace the parts that do not work ▪ The mechanic *overhauled* the car's engine.
2 : to change (something) completely in order to improve it ▪ They had to *overhaul* their original plans. ▪ Lawmakers are *overhauling* the welfare program.
– **over•haul** /ˈoʊvəˌhɑːl/ *noun, pl* **-hauls** [*count*] ▪ The engine underwent a complete *overhaul*. ▪ Lawmakers are attempting a major *overhaul* of the welfare program.

[1]over•head /ˌoʊvəˈhɛd/ *adv* : above someone's head : in the sky or space above someone ▪ Geese were flying *overhead*. ▪ A chandelier hung directly *overhead*. ▪ People were making noise in the balcony *overhead*.
– **over•head** /ˈoʊvəˌhɛd/ *adj* ▪ *overhead* branches. ▪ *overhead* lights/wires

[2]over•head /ˈoʊvəˌhɛd/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : costs for rent, heat, electricity, etc., that a business must pay and that are not related to what the business sells ▪ Her company has very little *overhead*. ▪ *overhead* costs — called also (*Brit*) *overheads*

overhead projector *noun, pl* ~ **-tors** [*count*] : a device that shows information or pictures on a wall or screen by shining a light through a sheet with the information or pictures on it


overhead projector

over•hear /ˌoʊvəˈhiɚ/ *verb* **-hears**; **-heard** /-ˈhɚd/; **-hear•ing** : to hear (something that was said to another person) by accident [+ *obj*] She *overheard* what her boss said to his secretary. ▪ I *overheard* a rumor about you. ▪ We *overheard* their discussion of the project. = We *overheard* them discussing the project. ▪ They were *overheard* discussing the project. [*no obj*] I couldn't help but *overhear*. = I couldn't help *overhearing*. [=I couldn't avoid hearing what was said]

over•heat /ˌoʊvəˈhiːt/ *verb* **-heats**; **-heat•ed**; **-heat•ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to become too hot ▪ The car's engine *overheated*.
2 [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to become too hot ▪ I *overheated* the food in the microwave. ▪ Be careful not to *overheat* the engine.

over•heat•ed /ˌoʊvəˈhiːtəd/ *adj*
1 : too hot ▪ She worked in a stuffy, *overheated* office.
2 : too excited or emotional ▪ an *overheated* imagination/argument ▪ The discussion was getting *overheated*.
3 *of a market or economy* : having too much activity, growth, etc. ▪ The market for new houses is *overheated*. ▪ an *overheated* economy

over•joyed /ˌoʊvəˈʤɔɪd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : filled with great joy : very happy ▪ She was *overjoyed* to see her sister again. ▪ They weren't *overjoyed* at the idea of working together. ▪ I'm *overjoyed* that you can come to my party.

over•kill /ˌoʊvəˈkɪl/ *noun* [*noncount*] *disapproving* : something that is much larger, greater, etc., than what is needed for a particular purpose ▪ Yes, we need a new car, but this huge truck seems like *overkill*. ▪ The incident got blown out of proportion because of media *overkill*. [=the media gave it much more attention than it deserved]

over•land /ˈoʊvəˌlænd/ *adv* : on or across land instead of over water ▪ We traveled *overland* by horse to the mountains.
– **overland** *adj* ▪ They made an *overland* journey. ▪ an *overland* trade route

over•lap /ˌoʊvəˈlæp/ *verb* **-laps**; **-lapped**; **-lap•ping**
1 : to lie over the edge of (something) : to cover part of the edge of (something) [+ *obj*] The roof shingles *overlap* each other. [*no obj*] The roof shingles *overlap*. ▪ The petals of the flower *overlap*. = The flower has *overlapping* petals.
2 : to happen at the same time as something else [*no obj*] — often + *with* ▪ Baseball season *overlaps with* football season in September. [+ *obj*] Baseball season *overlaps* football season in September.
3 : to have parts that are the same as parts of something else [*no obj*] Some of their duties *overlap*. = They have/share *overlapping* duties. — often + *with* ▪ Some of the material in the course *overlaps with* what I was taught in another course. [+ *obj*] Some of your duties *overlap* his.
– **over•lap** /ˈoʊvəˌlæp/ *noun, pl* **-laps** [*count*] The map shows an *overlap* in the regions controlled by the two tribes. [*noncount*] There is some *overlap* between the two courses. [=the courses cover some of the same material]

[1]over•lay /ˌoʊvəˈleɪ/ *verb* **-lays**; **-laid** /-ˈleɪd/; **-lay•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cover (something) with a layer of another material — often + *with* ▪ She *overlaid* the photograph *with* a piece of glass. ▪ The tabletop is *overlaid with* marble. — often used figuratively ▪ Her song was *overlaid with* sad lyrics and melodic vocals.

[2]over•lay /ˈoʊvəˌleɪ/ *noun, pl* **-lays**
1 : material that covers the complete surface or part of the surface of something and that changes its appearance [*noncount*] a silver ring with gold *overlay* [*count*] The wooden ta-

ble has a marble *overlay*. — often used figuratively ▪ Her voice had an *overlay* of sadness. [=there was a sad quality in her voice]

2 [*count*] : a transparent sheet with information or pictures on it that is placed on top of another sheet to change what is being shown

over•leaf /ˈoʊvəˌliːf/ *adv, chiefly Brit* : on the other side of the page ▪ You can find the answers *overleaf*.

over•lie /ˌoʊvəˈlaɪ/ *verb* **-lies**; **-lay** /-leɪ/; **-lain** /-ˈleɪn/; **-ly•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to lie over or on (something) ▪ Sand *overlies* the clay.

– **overlying** *adj* ▪ the *overlying* layers of rock

over•load /ˌoʊvəˈloʊd/ *verb* **-loads**; **-load•ed**; **-load•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to put too great a load on or in (something) ▪ Don't *overload* the washing machine. — often + *with* ▪ The truck was *overloaded with* wood. — often used figuratively ▪ He *overloaded* his essay *with* facts and figures.

2 : to give too much work to (someone) — often + *with* ▪ My boss is *overloading* me *with* extra work.

3 : to cause (something, such as an electrical circuit) to be used for too many things at the same time ▪ That outlet is *overloaded* and could start a fire. ▪ an *overloaded* circuit

– **over•load** /ˈoʊvəˌloʊd/ *noun, pl* **-loads** [*count*] The barge had an *overload* of cargo. ▪ Fires can start from circuit *overloads*. [*noncount*] I'm suffering from advertising *overload*. [=I have been seeing too many advertisements; I am sick of advertisements] ▪ information *overload*

over•long /ˌoʊvəˈlɑːŋ/ *adj* : longer than usual or necessary : too long ▪ an *overlong* essay ▪ The movie/meeting was *overlong*.

over•look /ˌoʊvəˈlʊk/ *verb* **-looks**; **-looked**; **-look•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to fail to see or notice (something) ▪ The detective *overlooked* an important clue. **b** : to pay no attention to (something) ▪ She learned to *overlook* [=*ignore*] her boyfriend's minor faults. ▪ Such a crime should not be *overlooked*.

2 : to not consider (someone) for a job, position, promotion, etc. ▪ The quarterback was *overlooked* by other teams. — often + *for* ▪ I was *overlooked for* a promotion.

3 a : to rise above (something) ▪ the mountains that *overlook* the village **b** : to have a view looking down at (something) ▪ We rented a suite that *overlooks* the lake.

over•lord /ˈoʊvəˌlɔəd/ *noun, pl* **-lords** [*count*] : a person who has power over a large number of people ▪ He is the *overlord* of the underground gambling industry. ▪ a colonial *overlord*

over•ly /ˈoʊvəli/ *adv* : to an excessive degree : TOO ▪ These directions are *overly* complex. ▪ She's *overly* sensitive to criticism. ▪ They didn't seem *overly* concerned about the problem.

over•matched /ˌoʊvəˈmætʃt/ *adj* : fighting or competing against a much stronger opponent ▪ The boxer was badly *overmatched*. ▪ They wiped out the *overmatched* rebel army.

over•much /ˌoʊvəˈmʌtʃ/ *adv* : too much or very much — usually used in negative statements ▪ Her comments didn't bother me *overmuch*.

[1]over•night /ˌoʊvəˈnaɪt/ *adv*

1 : for or during the entire night ▪ He stayed *overnight* and went home the next day. ▪ Let the paint dry *overnight*.

2 : very quickly or suddenly ▪ The novel made her famous *overnight*.

[2]overnight *adj*

1 : happening, traveling, or staying during the night ▪ They went on an *overnight* bus trip. ▪ an *overnight* train ▪ *Overnight* guests are not allowed in the dormitory.

2 : happening very quickly or suddenly ▪ The show was an *overnight* success.

overnight bag *noun, pl* ~ **bags** [*count*] : a bag for carrying the clothes and other things that you take for an overnight trip

over•night•er /ˌoʊvəˈnaɪtəɹ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 a : an overnight trip ▪ He is on an *overnighter*. **b** : OVERNIGHT BAG ▪ You should pack an *overnighter*.

2 : a person who stays somewhere overnight ▪ *Overnighters* will appreciate the area's fine hotels.

over•op•ti•mis•tic /ˌoʊvəɹɑːptəˈmɪstɪk/ *adj, disapproving* : expecting something to be much better in the future : too optimistic ▪ He is *overoptimistic* about his future success.

over•pass /ˈoʊvəɹˌpæs, *Brit* ˈəʊvəɹˌpɑːs/ *noun, pl* **-pass•es** [*count*] *US* : a bridge that allows a road or railroad to cross over another ▪ Boys stood beneath the highway *overpass*. ▪ Traffic was stalled on the *overpass*. — called also (*Brit*) *fly-over*; compare UNDERPASS

over•pay /ˌoʊvəˈpeɪ/ *verb* **-pays**; **-paid** /-ˈpeɪd/; **-pay•ing**

1 : to pay too much for something [*no obj*] He *overpaid* for his car. [+ *obj*] I accidentally *overpaid* the plumber.

2 [+ *obj*] *disapproving* : to pay (someone) more money for a job than is deserved ▪ She is *overpaid* for the work she does. ▪ The company tends to *overpay* upper management. ▪ *overpaid* baseball players — opposite UNDERPAY

– **over•pay•ment** /ˌoʊvəˈpeɪmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count, noncount*]

over•play /ˌoʊvəˈpleɪ/ *verb* **-plays**; **-played**; **-play•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to give too much attention to (something) : to make (something) seem more important than it really is ▪ The network news *overplayed* the story just to get good ratings. — opposite UNDERPLAY

2 *disapproving* : to show too much emotion when acting in a play, movie, etc. ▪ He *overplayed* the death scene.

overplay your hand *also* ***overplay your cards*** : to make a mistake because you believe that your position is stronger or better than it really is ▪ The union *overplayed its hand* by demanding too much, causing the company to withdraw what would have been its best offer.

over•pop•u•la•tion /ˌoʊvəɹˌpɑːpjəˈleɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a situation in which too many people or animals live in a certain area ▪ He is studying the problem of deer *overpopulation*. ▪ world *overpopulation*

– **over•pop•u•lat•ed** /ˌoʊvəˈpɑːpjəˌleɪtəd/ *adj* ▪ the shortage of housing in *overpopulated* cities

over•pow•er /ˌoʊvəˈpawəɹ/ *verb* **-ers**; **-ered**; **-er•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to defeat or gain control of (someone or something) by using force ▪ She was able to *overpower* her attacker. ▪ The police *overpowered* the man and handcuffed him. ▪ The troops were *overpowered* by the stronger enemy forces.

2 : to affect (someone) very strongly or severely ▪ The smell *overpowered* [=*overwhelmed*] us. ▪ We were *overpowered* [=*overcome*] by hunger/grief.

3 : to have more strength, force, or effect than (someone or something) ▪ His personality *overpowers* everyone else's. ▪ The delicate taste of the wine was *overpowered* by the spiciness of the food.

overpowering *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very strong or powerful ▪ an *overpowering* smell ▪ an *overpowering* fastball ▪ He has an *overpowering* personality. ▪ I felt an *overpowering* urge to tell him what I really thought of him.

over•price /ˌoʊvəˈpraɪs/ *verb* **-pric•es**; **-priced**; **-pric•ing** [+ *obj*] : to give a price that is too high to (something) : to price (something) too high ▪ The store was guilty of *overpricing* its goods. ▪ Everything in the store is grossly *overpriced*. ▪ *overpriced* jewelry

over•print /ˌoʊvəˈprɪnt/ *verb* **-prints**; **-print•ed**; **-print•ing** [+ *obj*] : to add something to (a picture, document, etc.) by printing — usually + *with* ▪ They *overprinted* the photo *with* red lettering. ▪ The money is *overprinted with* pictures of the queen.

over•pro•duc•tion /ˌoʊvəɹprəˈdʌkʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the act of producing more of something than is needed or wanted ▪ The *overproduction* of oil caused the fuel companies to lower their prices. ▪ Heartburn can be caused by the *overproduction* of stomach acid.

over•pro•tec•tive /ˌoʊvəɹprəˈtɛktɪv/ *adj* : trying too hard to protect someone (such as a child) from danger ▪ His *overprotective* mother won't let him go out after dark. ▪ He is *overprotective* of his little sister.

over•qual•i•fied /ˌoʊvəˈkwɑːləˌfaɪd/ *adj* : having more experience, knowledge, or training than is needed ▪ They didn't hire her because she was *overqualified* for the job.

over•rate /ˈoʊvəˌɹeɪt/ *verb* **-rates**; **-rat•ed**; **-rat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to rate, value, or praise (someone or something) too highly ▪ The coach tends to *overrate* the players on his own team.

– **overrated** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ (*disapproving*) That movie was disappointing and highly/very *overrated*.

over•reach /ˌoʊvəˈɹiːtʃ/ *verb* **-reach•es**; **-reached**; **-reach•ing** : to try to do something that is beyond your ability to do [*no obj*] She *overreaches* in her latest book, and her argument is not convincing. [+ *obj*] The company ***overreached itself*** and ran out of money after one year.

over•re•act /ˌoʊvəɹiˈækt/ *verb* **-acts**; **-act•ed**; **-act•ing** [*no obj*] : to respond to something with an emotion that is too strong or an action that is unnecessary : to react to

O

something too strongly ▪ My mother *overreacted* when she learned that I had been in an accident. ▪ The news media always *overreacts* to any kind of scandal. ▪ He *overreacted* to his bad grades by quitting school.

– **over•re•ac•tion** /ˌoʊvəriˈækʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*] ▪ His angry response was an *overreaction*.

over•ride /ˌoʊvəˈraɪd/ *verb* **-rides**; **-rode** /-ˈroʊd/; **-rid•den** /-ˈrɪdn̩/; **-rid•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (something) no longer valid ▪ Congress *overrode* the President's veto. ▪ These new rules *override* the old ones.

2 : to have more importance or influence than (something) ▪ Don't let anger *override* common sense.

3 : to stop an action that is done automatically by using a special command ▪ You must enter a code to *override* the alarm. ▪ She *overrode* the default settings on her computer.

overriding *adj, always used before a noun* : more important than anything else ▪ We have one *overriding* concern. ▪ The weather is the *overriding* factor in deciding whether to cancel the picnic.

over•ripe /oʊvəˈraɪp/ *adj*

1 : grown or aged past the point of ripeness and beginning to decay : too ripe ▪ *overripe* fruit/cheese

2 a : not new or young ▪ an *overripe* [=*aging*] rock star **b** : not fresh or original ▪ *overripe* [=*trite*] prose

over•rule /oʊvəˈruːl/ *verb* **-rules**; **-ruled**; **-rul•ing** [+ *obj*] : to decide that (something or someone) is wrong : to rule against (something or someone) ▪ The judge *overruled* the objection/attorney. ▪ His conviction was *overruled* by the supreme court. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ We sometimes let our hearts *overrule* our sense of reason.

[1]over•run /ˌoʊvəˈrʌn/ *verb* **-runs**; **-ran** /-ˈræn/; **-run**; **-run•ning** [+ *obj*]

1 : to enter and be present in (a place) in large numbers ▪ The tank divisions *overran* the countryside. ▪ The city was being *overrun* by enemy troops. ▪ Rats *overran* the ship. ▪ In the summer, the town is *overrun* with/by tourists. [=is filled with tourists]

2 : to run or go beyond or past (something) ▪ The runner *overran* [=ran past] third base. ▪ The plane *overran* the runway. ▪ The stream has *overrun* [=*overflowed*] its banks. ▪ His speech *overran* the time allowed.

3 : to spread over or throughout (something) ▪ Weeds *overran* the garden. = The garden was *overrun* with/by weeds. ▪ Crime *overran* the neighborhood.

[2]over•run /ˈoʊvəˌrʌn/ *noun, pl* **-runs** [*count*] : an amount of money that is spent and that is more than the expected or planned amount ▪ cost/budget *overruns*

over•seas /ˌoʊvəˈsiːz/ *adv* : in or to a foreign country that is across a sea or ocean ▪ I lived *overseas* [=*abroad*] for a time. ▪ The troops were sent *overseas*.

– **over•seas** /ˈoʊvəˌsiːz/ *adj* ▪ *overseas* flights/markets

over•see /ˌoʊvəˈsiː/ *verb* **-sees**; **-saw** /-ˈsɑː/; **-seen** /-ˈsiːn/; **-see•ing** [+ *obj*] : to watch and direct (an activity, a group of workers, etc.) in order to be sure that a job is done correctly : SUPERVISE ▪ He was hired to *oversee* design and construction of the new facility.

over•seer /ˈoʊvəˌsiːjɚ/ *noun, pl* **-seers** [*count*] : a person who watches and directs the work of other people in order to be sure that a job is done correctly ▪ She was named *overseer* [=*supervisor*] of new product development. ▪ government/industry *overseers* ▪ (*US*) a plantation/slave *overseer* [=the person who was in charge of the slaves on a plantation]

over•sell /ˌoʊvəˈsɛl/ *verb* **-sells**; **-sold** /-ˈsoʊld/; **-sell•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to accept payment or reservations for more rooms, seats, tickets, etc., than you have available ▪ Hotels routinely *oversell* their rooms, expecting a small percentage of no-shows. ▪ The concert was *oversold*. [=more tickets were sold than there were seats] ▪ an *oversold* [=*overbooked*] flight

2 : to praise (something or someone) too much ▪ Don't *oversell* yourself in the job interview. ▪ The salesman *oversold* the features on the new model.

over•sen•si•tive /ˌoʊvəˈsɛnsətɪv/ *adj* : too sensitive: such as **a** : too easily upset or offended ▪ *Oversensitive* readers might be unhappy with some parts of the book. ▪ students who are *oversensitive* to criticism **b** : acting or reacting too quickly ▪ a car with *oversensitive* brakes

over•sexed /ˌoʊvəˈsɛkst/ *adj* : having more interest in sex than is usual ▪ a movie about *oversexed* college students

over•shad•ow /ˌoʊvəˈʃædoʊ/ *verb* **-ows**; **-owed**; **-ow•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause (something or someone) to seem less important or impressive when compared to something or someone else ▪ The pitcher's outstanding performance should not *overshadow* the achievements of the rest of the team. — often used as *(be) overshadowed* ▪ She felt *overshadowed* by the success of her brother.

2 : to make (something) less enjoyable because of sadness, fear, or worry — often used as *(be) overshadowed* ▪ Their lives *are overshadowed* by the constant threat of earthquakes. ▪ Recent peace efforts have *been overshadowed* by violence.

3 : to cast a shadow over (something) ▪ a house *overshadowed* by tall trees [=a house with tall trees next to it]

over•shoe /ˈoʊvəˌʃuː/ *noun, pl* **-shoes** [*count*] : a rubber shoe worn over another shoe in bad weather

over•shoot /ˌoʊvəˈʃuːt/ *verb* **-shoots**; **-shot** /-ˈʃɑːt/; **-shoot•ing** [+ *obj*] : to go over or beyond (something) ▪ The plane *overshot* the runway. ▪ He *overshot* the target. ▪ We're afraid that costs may *overshoot* [=*exceed*] projections. ▪ Sometimes we *overshoot* our time limits.

over•sight /ˈoʊvəˌsaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-sights**

1 [*count*] : a mistake made because someone forgets or fails to notice something ▪ The fact that you didn't get an invitation is surely just an *oversight*. ▪ The error was a simple *oversight*.

2 [*noncount*] : the act or job of directing work that is being done ▪ The new manager was given *oversight* of the project. ▪ a congressional *oversight* committee [=a congressional committee that oversees something]

over•sim•pli•fy /ˌoʊvəˈsɪmpləˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy•ing** : to describe (something) in a way that does not include all the facts and details and that causes misunderstanding [+ *obj*] The article *oversimplifies* the problem. ▪ She tends to *oversimplify* things. [*no obj*] We must resist the temptation to *oversimplify*.

– **over•sim•pli•fi•ca•tion** /ˌoʊvəˌsɪmpləfəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*]

over•size /ˌoʊvəˈsaɪz/ *or* **over•sized** /ˌoʊvəˈsaɪzd/ *adj* : larger than the normal size : very large ▪ an *oversize* package

over•sleep /ˌoʊvəˈsliːp/ *verb* **-sleeps**; **-slept** /-ˈslɛpt/; **-sleep•ing** [*no obj*] : to sleep past the time when you planned to get up ▪ Be sure to set your alarm clock so that you don't *oversleep*.

over•spend /ˌoʊvəˈspɛnd/ *verb* **-spends**; **-spent** /-ˈspɛnt/; **-spend•ing** : to spend more than the planned or proper amount of money [*no obj*] The studio clearly *overspent* on marketing, and the movie was still a flop. [+ *obj*] We try not to *overspend* our budget. [=to spend more than our budget allows]

– **overspend** *noun, pl* **-spends** [*count*] *Brit* ▪ The government *overspend* on administrative costs hit record levels.

over•spill /ˈoʊvəˌspɪl/ *noun, Brit* : the movement of people from crowded cities to less crowded areas [*singular*] an *overspill* into nearby towns [*noncount*] a new town built to absorb London's *overspill*

over•staffed /ˌoʊvəˈstæft, *Brit* ˌəʊvəˈstɑːft/ *adj* : having more workers than is necessary ▪ The store is *overstaffed* and will probably begin to lay off some workers.

over•state /ˌoʊvəˈsteɪt/ *verb* **-states**; **-stat•ed**; **-stat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to say that (something) is larger or greater than it really is ▪ The company *overstated* revenue [=the company reported more revenue than it actually earned] for the past year. ▪ It would be *overstating* the case to say that it was a matter of life or death. ▪ It would be difficult to *overstate* the damage done by the storm. [=the storm did a great amount of damage] ▪ The importance of tomorrow's test ***cannot be overstated***. [=tomorrow's test is very important]

– **over•state•ment** /ˌoʊvəˈsteɪtmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] an *overstatement* of profits ▪ It's not an *overstatement* to say that he'll eat anything. [*noncount*] He is often given to *overstatement*.

over•stay /ˌoʊvəˈsteɪ/ *verb* **-stays**; **-stayed**; **-stay•ing** [+ *obj*] : to stay longer than you are expected or allowed to stay ▪ She was guilty of *overstaying* a student visa. ▪ Don't ***overstay your welcome***. [=do not stay longer than you should]

over•step /ˌoʊvəˈstɛp/ *verb* **-steps**; **-stepped**; **-step•ping** [+ *obj*] : to go beyond what is proper or allowed by (something) ▪ The judges *overstepped* their authority. [=the judges did something that they are not allowed to do] ▪ He ***overstepped the bounds/limits*** of good taste. [=he did something that was not proper] ▪ She warned us not to ***overstep the mark/line***. [=do something that is not proper or allowed]

O

over·stim·u·late /ˌoʊvəˈstɪmjəˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates**; **-lat·ed**; **-lat·ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone or something) to become too active or excited : to stimulate (someone or something) too much ▪ antibodies that *overstimulate* the thyroid ▪ an *overstimulated* child
– **over·stim·u·la·tion** /ˌoʊvəˌstɪmjəˈleɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

over·stock /ˌoʊvəˈstɑːk/ *verb* **-stocks**; **-stocked**; **-stock·ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to have a larger amount of something than is needed or wanted — often used as *(be) overstocked* ▪ The stores *are overstocked* with toys around Christmas. ▪ The pond *is overstocked* with fish. ▪ an *overstocked* refrigerator/warehouse
– **over·stock** /ˈoʊvəˌstɑːk/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ At the end of the season, the *overstock* is sold off at a discount.

over·stretch /ˌoʊvəˈstrɛtʃ/ *verb* **-stretch·es**; **-stretched**; **-stretch·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to stretch (something) too far or too much ▪ Take care not to *overstretch* his sweater. ▪ *overstretch* a muscle
2 *chiefly Brit* : to try to do too much with (something) ▪ Don't *overstretch* your resources. : to try to make (someone) do too much ▪ an *overstretched* serving staff ▪ Home buyers should not financially ***overstretch themselves***. [=not spend more money than they can afford to spend]

over·stuffed /ˌoʊvəˈstʌft/ *adj*
1 : completely full or too full ▪ *overstuffed* plastic bags ▪ pockets *overstuffed* with cash
2 *of furniture* : having a large amount of soft padding : very soft and comfortable ▪ an *overstuffed* armchair

over·sub·scribed /ˌoʊvəsəbˈskraɪbd/ *adj* — used to describe a situation in which something is wanted by many people but there are not enough copies, rooms, etc., for everyone ▪ an *oversubscribed* stock issue ▪ an *oversubscribed* course/school

over·sup·ply /ˈoʊvəsəˌplaɪ/ *noun, pl* **-plies** [*count*] : an amount of something that is more than is needed or wanted ▪ An *oversupply* of office space drove down rent prices. ▪ There is a global *oversupply* of sugar.

overt /oʊˈvɚt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : easily seen : not secret or hidden : OBVIOUS ▪ *overt* hostility — opposite COVERT
– **overt·ly** *adv* ▪ an *overtly* religious reference

over·take /ˌoʊvəˈteɪk/ *verb* **-takes**; **-took** /-ˈtʊk/; **-tak·en** /-ˈteɪkən/; **-tak·ing**
1 a [+ *obj*] : to move up to and past (someone or something that is in front of you) by moving faster ▪ The car *overtook* [=*passed*] the leader of the race on the turn. ▪ She *overtook* the other runners and went on to win the race. — often used figuratively ▪ All of the other candidates hope to *overtake* the front-runner by election day. ▪ Obesity may soon *overtake* smoking as the leading cause of preventable deaths. ▪ Frank has *overtaken* his father in height. [=Frank is now taller than his father] **b** [*no obj*] *Brit* : to go past another vehicle that is moving more slowly in the same direction ▪ Never *overtake* [=(*US*) *pass*] on a curve. ▪ The sign says "No *Overtaking*."
2 [+ *obj*] : to happen to or affect (someone) in a sudden and unexpected way ▪ The pain *overtook* him. ▪ Seasickness can *overtake* passengers when the ship encounters a storm. ▪ Sleep had *overtaken* them. ▪ I could feel the impulse to buy it *overtaking* [=*seizing*] me.
overtaken by events : forced to be changed because of something that has suddenly and unexpectedly happened ▪ The original date for the meeting was *overtaken by events* and had to be changed.

over·tax /ˌoʊvəˈtæks/ *verb* **-tax·es**; **-taxed**; **-tax·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to make (someone or something) do more than that person or thing is able to do or should do : to make heavy demands on (someone or something) ▪ New housing development in the town will *overtax* sewer and drinking water systems. ▪ We are afraid the trip might *overtax* his health/strength. ▪ The children *overtaxed* her patience. ▪ The hospital's *overtaxed* emergency room needs more doctors.
2 : to make (people) pay too much in taxes ▪ He claims that the city has been *overtaxing* its residents for years.

over–the–counter *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : available for purchase without a special note (called a prescription) from a doctor ▪ an *over-the-counter* medication ▪ *over-the-counter* drugs — abbr. *OTC*; see also *over the counter* at ¹COUNTER
2 *US, business* : not traded on an organized stock exchange ▪ an *over-the-counter* stock

over–the–top *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : going beyond what is expected, usual, normal, or appropriate : excessive or exaggerated ▪ an *over-the-top* performance — see also *over the top* at ¹TOP

over·throw /ˌoʊvəˈθroʊ/ *verb* **-throws**; **-threw** /-ˈθruː/; **-thrown** /-ˈθroʊn/; **-throw·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to remove (someone or something) from power especially by force ▪ *overthrow* a government ▪ The dictator was *overthrown*.
2 *US, sports* : to throw a ball over or past (someone) ▪ He *overthrew* the first baseman. = He *overthrew* first base. ▪ The quarterback *overthrew* his receiver.
– **over·throw** /ˈoʊvəˌθroʊ/ *noun, pl* **-throws** [*count, noncount*]

over·time /ˈoʊvəˌtaɪm/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 a : time spent working at your job that is in addition to your normal working hours ▪ I worked two hours of *overtime* last week. ▪ He was doing a lot of *overtime* to save for his vacation. **b** : the money paid for work that is done in addition to your normal working hours ▪ How much did you earn last month in *overtime*? ▪ *overtime* pay
2 : extra time added to a game when the score is tied at the end of the normal playing time ▪ The game went ***into overtime***. ▪ They lost the game ***in overtime***. — often used before another noun ▪ an *overtime* win/period/game
– **overtime** *adv* ▪ He has been working *overtime*. — often used figuratively ▪ Her imagination was ***working overtime***. [=her imagination was extremely active] ▪ He's been *working overtime* [=working very hard] around the house to please his wife.

over·tired /ˌoʊvəˈtajəd/ *adj* : extremely tired ▪ I've been feeling *overtired* and stressed out.

over·tone /ˈoʊvəˌtoʊn/ *noun, pl* **-tones** [*count*]
1 : an idea or quality that is suggested without being said directly ▪ Their words carried an *overtone* [=*hint, suggestion*] of menace. ▪ racist/political *overtones*
2 : a very small amount of something ▪ The wine has *overtones* of fruitiness. [=hints of the taste of fruit]
3 *music* : a higher tone that is part of the sound of a musical note

over·ture /ˈoʊvəʧɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tures** [*count*]
1 : a piece of music played at the start of an opera, a musical play, etc.
2 : something that is offered or suggested with the hope that it will start a relationship, lead to an agreement, etc. ▪ The government has made a significant peace *overture* by opening the door to negotiation. ▪ He was making (romantic/sexual) *overtures* to her during dinner. ▪ The company's board rejected *overtures* [=*offers*] for a merger.
3 : the first part of an event : the beginning of something ▪ Experts feared that the tremor was an *overture* [=*prelude*] to a major earthquake.

over·turn /ˌoʊvəˈtɚn/ *verb* **-turns**; **-turned**; **-turn·ing**
1 a [+ *obj*] : to turn (something) over ▪ The dog *overturned* the bowl. **b** [*no obj*] : to turn over ▪ The truck went off the road and *overturned* several times.
2 [+ *obj*] : to decide that (a ruling, decision, etc.) is wrong and change it : REVERSE ▪ The court *overturned* his conviction.

¹over·use /ˌoʊvəˈjuːz/ *verb* **-us·es**; **-used**; **-us·ing** [+ *obj*] : to use (something) too much or too often ▪ Try not to *overuse* the medication. ▪ an *overused* phrase

²over·use /ˌoʊvəˈjuːs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : too much use ▪ the *overuse* of antibiotics ▪ The couch sagged from *overuse*.

over·val·ue /ˌoʊvəˈvælju/ *verb* **-val·ues**; **-val·ued**; **-val·u·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to place too high a value on (something) ▪ Is property in this part of town *overvalued*? [=priced too high]
2 : to give too much importance to (something) ▪ He *overvalues* the opinions of his friends.

over·view /ˈoʊvɚˌvjuː/ *noun, pl* **-views** [*count*] : a general explanation or description of something : SUMMARY ▪ I was asked to give an *overview* of the company's sales figures. ▪ This book provides a broad/general *overview* of American history.

over·ween·ing /ˌoʊvəˈwiːnɪŋ/ *adj, formal + disapproving*
1 : too confident or proud ▪ speeches by *overweening* politicians
2 : too great : excessive and unpleasant ▪ *overweening* ambition/pride

over·weight /ˌoʊvəˈweɪt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : weighing more than the normal or expected amount : too heavy ▪ He's

only slightly *overweight*. ▪ He looked to be at least 20 pounds *overweight*. ▪ an *overweight* package

over•whelm /ˌoʊvəˈwɛlm/ *verb* **-whelms**; **-whelmed**; **-whelm•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to affect (someone) very strongly ▪ Grief *overwhelmed* her. = She was *overwhelmed* by grief. [=she felt grief so strongly that she was unable to think or act in a normal way] ▪ Her neighbor's kindness *overwhelmed* her. [=moved her deeply]

2 : to cause (someone) to have too many things to deal with ▪ The many requests for assistance *overwhelmed* them. = They were *overwhelmed* by the many requests for assistance. [=they could not respond to the many requests for assistance because there were too many] ▪ Don't *overwhelm* him with facts. ▪ They were *overwhelmed* with work.

3 : to defeat (someone or something) completely ▪ The city was *overwhelmed* by the invading army. ▪ She was *overwhelmed* at the polls. [=she was badly defeated in the election]

4 : to cover over (something) completely with water ▪ The boat was *overwhelmed* [=*engulfed*] by a huge wave.

over•whelm•ing /ˌoʊvəˈwɛlmɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very great in number, effect, or force ▪ The response was *overwhelming*. ▪ *overwhelming* [=very strong] evidence/support ▪ an *overwhelming* majority/success

2 — used to describe something that is so confusing, difficult, etc., that you feel unable to do it ▪ She found the job *overwhelming* at first.

– **over•whelm•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ The town voted *overwhelmingly* for the new library. ▪ an *overwhelmingly* difficult task

over•win•ter /ˌoʊvəˈwɪntɚ/ *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter•ing** [*no obj*] **:** to spend or survive the winter ▪ The geese will *overwinter* in a warmer climate.

over•work /ˌoʊvɚˈwɚk/ *verb* **-works**; **-worked**; **-work•ing**

1 : to work too hard [*no obj*] The whole crew seemed exhausted, probably from *overworking*. [+ *obj*] The captain routinely *overworked* the crew.

2 [+ *obj*] **:** to use (something) too much or too often ▪ He *overworks* the melody in the song. ▪ *overwork* a phrase

3 [+ *obj*] **:** to work on (something) too much ▪ She *overworked* the painting. ▪ If you *overwork* the dough, the bread will be tough.

– **overwork** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ They were exhausted from *overwork*. – **overworked** *adj* ▪ He says that he's *overworked* and underpaid. ▪ She always looks tired and *overworked*. ▪ an *overworked* phrase/expression

over•write /ˌoʊvɚˈraɪt/ *verb* **-writes**; **-wrote** /-ˈroʊt/; **-writ•ten** /-ˈrɪtn̩/; **-writ•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **:** to replace information in (a computer file) with new information ▪ *overwrite* the existing file

2 : to write in a way that is too detailed or complicated [*no obj*] The author has a tendency to *overwrite*. [+ *obj*] — usually used as *(be) overwritten* ▪ The novel *was overwritten* and dull.

over•wrought /ˌoʊvɚˈrɑːt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] **:** very excited or upset ▪ The witness became *overwrought* as she described the crime. ▪ an *overwrought* performance

over•zeal•ous /ˌoʊvɚˈzɛləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] **:** too eager or enthusiastic **:** too zealous ▪ *overzealous* fans ▪ *overzealous* enforcement of the rules

– **over•zeal•ous•ly** *adv* – **over•zeal•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

ovi•duct /ˈoʊvəˌdʌkt/ *noun, pl* **-ducts** [*count*] *biology* **:** a tube through which eggs pass from the ovary of a female animal

ovoid /ˈoʊˌvɔɪd/ *adj, formal* **:** shaped like an egg ▪ an *ovoid* leaf

ovu•late /ˈɑːvjəˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates**; **-lat•ed**; **-lat•ing** [*no obj*] *biology, of a woman or a female animal* **:** to produce eggs within the body

– **ovu•la•tion** /ˌɑːvjəˈleɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

ovum /ˈoʊvəm/ *noun, pl* **ova** /ˈoʊvə/ [*count*] *biology* **:** [1]EGG 3

ow /ˈaʊ/ *interj* — used to express sudden pain ▪ *Ow*! That hurts!

owe /ˈoʊ/ *verb* **owes**; **owed**; **ow•ing**

1 : to need to pay or repay money to a person, bank, business, etc. [+ *obj*] I still *owe* money on the car. [=I have not yet paid back all the money I borrowed to buy the car] ▪ We *owe* no income tax. ▪ He *owes* me $5. ▪ Don't I *owe* money to you? = Don't I *owe* you money? ▪ I *owe* the bank a lot of money. ▪ Additional payments are *owed* on the mortgage. ▪ How much is *owed*? = What is the amount *owed*? ▪ How much do I *owe* (you) for this? [*no obj*] I still *owe* on the car.

2 [+ *obj*] **a :** to need to do or give something to someone who has done something for you or given something to you ▪ I *owe* you a drink/favor. ▪ I *owe* you my thanks. ▪ (*informal*) What do you mean you won't help? You *owe* me! ▪ She still *owes* me for all the times I've helped her out. ▪ Thanks for your help. I ***owe you one***. [=I will give you help when you need it] **b** — used to say that something should be done for or given to someone ▪ You *owe* me an explanation. ▪ I *owe* you an apology. ▪ The senator is *owed* a degree of respect. [=the senator deserves some respect] ▪ We ***owe it to*** the veterans to build a memorial. [=we should build a memorial to honor and thank the veterans] ▪ You ***owe it to yourself*** to have fun. [=you deserve to let yourself have fun] ▪ He *owes it to himself* to travel while he still can.

3 [+ *obj*] — used to indicate the person or thing that made something possible ▪ She *owes* her family for her success. [=her family enabled her to become successful] — often + *to* ▪ I *owe* my success *to* my teachers. [=my teachers deserve credit for my success] ▪ She *owes* her success *to* hard work. [=she has succeeded because of hard work] ▪ He *owes* his wealth *to* his father. ▪ He *owes* his fame *to* several movies. [=he is famous because he was in several movies] ▪ His success *owes* more *to* luck than skill. [=is more because of luck than skill] ▪ I *owe* my life *to* the surgeon's skill. [=the surgeon's skill saved my life] ▪ We *owe* our understanding of gravity *to* Newton.

owe a debt of gratitude/thanks to someone see DEBT

owing *adj, not used before a noun, Brit* **:** due to be paid ▪ Do you have any bills *owing*? [=any bills that you have not yet paid]

owing to *prep* **:** because of (something) ▪ The ambassador was absent *owing to* [=*due to*] illness. ▪ She walks with a limp *owing to* a childhood injury.

owl /ˈawəl/ *noun, pl* **owls** [*count*] **:** a bird that usually hunts at night and that has a large head and eyes, a powerful hooked beak, and strong claws — see color picture on page C9; see also BARN OWL, NIGHT OWL, SCREECH OWL

owl•et /ˈaʊlət/ *noun, pl* **-ets** [*count*] **:** a young or small owl

owl•ish /ˈaʊlɪʃ/ *adj* **:** resembling or suggesting an owl ▪ an *owlish* face ▪ *owlish* eyes/glasses — often used to describe a person who wears round glasses and seems serious and intelligent

[1]own /ˈoʊn/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 — used to say that something belongs or relates to a particular person or thing and to no other; always used after a possessive (such as "my," "your," or "their") ▪ We each had our *own* book. ▪ The star of the show needs his *own* private dressing room. ▪ Each of the houses is beautiful in its *own* way. ▪ His novel is based on his *own* personal experiences. ▪ "In my *own* experience," she said, "I have found that women are better workers than men." ▪ My father built this boat with his *own* (two) hands. ▪ I've got my *own* problems; I don't have time to listen to yours. ▪ She had her *own* reasons for not wanting to go. ▪ Mind your *own* business! This has nothing to do with you! ▪ I don't like punishing you, but it's for your *own* good. ▪ It's your *own* fault that you failed the test. You should have studied more. ▪ He's too old for her. Why doesn't she date someone her *own* age? [=someone who is the same age as her] ▪ I now have my ***very own*** office!

2 — used to stress the fact that a person does or makes something without the help of other people; always used after a possessive ▪ She's always dreamed of starting her *own* business. ▪ They built their *own* home. ▪ I'm going out tonight, so you'll have to cook your *own* dinner. ▪ He acted as his *own* lawyer during the trial.

[2]own *pronoun* **:** something or someone that belongs or relates to a particular person or thing and to no other — always used after a possessive (such as "my," "your," "their," or "Joe's") ▪ The teacher gave out books so that each of us had our *own*. ▪ Do you want to share a bag of popcorn, or should we each get our *own*? ▪ He loves children and would like one of his *own* someday. ▪ We've got problems of our *own*. ▪ I have a few ideas of my *own*. ▪ The Senator's views are entirely his *own* and do not represent those of his party. ▪ The band has a style ***all its own***. [=no other band has the same style] ▪ I don't need much—just a little place to ***call my own***. [=just a little place that belongs only to me] ▪ The apartment isn't much, but she's ***made it her own***. [=she has changed it to suit her; she has personalized it] ▪ ***Through no fault of their own***,

these children are forced to live in poverty. ▪ When you're a little older, you can have a bike of your ***very own***.

come into your own see ¹COME

get your own back see *get back* at GET

hold your own see ¹HOLD

on your own **1** : without being helped by anyone or anything ▪ He's still too weak to stand *on his own*. ▪ No one had to tell me; I found out *on my own*. ▪ The rash went away *on its own* after a few days. ▪ Keys don't just disappear *on their own*. You must have left them somewhere. ▪ I came up with the idea ***all on my own*** **2 a** : without anyone or anything else : ALONE ▪ She lived *on her own* for a few years before getting married. **b** : in a state or condition in which there is nobody to help you ▪ If you mess up, you're *on your own*. ▪ They can't survive *on their own* in the wilderness.

to each his own *or* ***each to his own*** see ²EACH

³own *verb* **owns; owned; own·ing**

1 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] : to have (something) as property : to legally possess (something) ▪ We hope to someday *own* our own home. ▪ She drives a red truck that was originally *owned* by her grandfather. ▪ He *owns* the rights to the band's music. ▪ a publicly/privately *owned* company ▪ The couple ***owns and operates*** the business. ▪ (*disapproving*) He walks/struts around here ***like he owns the place*** [=like someone who has the right to tell other people what to do]

2 *old-fashioned* : to admit that something is true [+ *obj*] After everyone else denied any responsibility, he *owned* that he was at fault. [*no obj*] — usually + *to* ▪ He would not *own to* the mistake. [=he would not admit the mistake]

own up [*phrasal verb*] : to admit that you have done a usually bad thing : to confess to something ▪ I know he broke the window, but so far, he hasn't *owned up*. — usually + *to* ▪ I'm waiting for him to *own up to* it.

own–brand *adj, Brit* : STORE-BRAND

own·er /ˈoʊnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person or group that owns something ▪ Who's the *owner* of that car? [=who owns that car?; whose car is that?] ▪ The restaurant's previous *owner* was unable to make a profit. ▪ Congratulations! You are now the ***proud owner*** of a brand-new car! ▪ The stolen jewelry was found and returned to its ***rightful owner***. — often used in combination ▪ dog-*owners* and cat-*owners* — see also HOMEOWNER, LANDOWNER

– **own·er·less** *adj* ▪ *ownerless* pets

owner–occupied *adj* : lived in by the owner ▪ *owner-occupied* apartments

– **owner–occupier** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* ▪ renters and *owner-occupiers*

own·er·ship /ˈoʊnɚˌʃɪp/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the state or fact of owning something ▪ Home *ownership* is on the rise in this country. [=an increasing number of people own their own homes in this country] ▪ The restaurant is now under new *ownership*. [=different people now own the restaurant] ▪ The company is under private *ownership*.

own goal *noun, pl* ~ **goals** [*count*]

1 *chiefly Brit* : a goal in soccer, hockey, etc., that a player accidentally scores against his or her own team ▪ We lost the game when one of our players scored an *own goal* for the other team.

2 *Brit* : something that you do because you think it will help you but that actually hurts you ▪ The workers scored an *own goal* by demanding such high wages that no one could afford to employ them.

own–label *adj, Brit* : STORE-BRAND

ox /ˈɑːks/ *noun, pl* **ox·en** /ˈɑːksən/ *also* **ox** [*count*]

1 : a bull that has had its sex organs removed

2 : a cow or bull

ox·bow /ˈɑːksˌboʊ/ *noun, pl* **-bows** [*count*] *US* : a place where a river curves in the shape of a U

Ox·bridge /ˈɑːksˌbrɪʤ/ *adj, always used before a noun, Brit* : of or relating to Oxford and Cambridge Universities ▪ *Oxbridge* graduates — compare REDBRICK

– **Oxbridge** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ graduates of *Oxbridge*

ox·cart /ˈɑːksˌkɑɚt/ *noun, pl* **-carts** [*count*] : a cart pulled by oxen

ox·ford /ˈɑːksfɚd/ *noun, pl* **-fords**

1 [*count*] *chiefly US* : a low shoe usually made of leather and fastened with laces ▪ a pair of *oxfords*

2 a [*noncount*] : soft, strong cotton usually used for making shirts **b** [*count*] *US* : a shirt made of oxford ▪ a button-down *oxford* ▪ a blue *oxford* shirt

ox·ide /ˈɑːkˌsaɪd/ *noun, pl* **-ides** [*count, noncount*] *chemistry* : a compound of oxygen and another substance ▪ iron *oxide*

ox·i·dize /ˈɑːksəˌdaɪz/ *also Brit* **ox·i·dise** *verb* **-diz·es; -dized; -diz·ing** [*no obj*] : to become combined with oxygen ▪ The paint *oxidizes* and discolors rapidly.

– **ox·i·da·tion** /ˌɑːksəˈdeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

ox·y·gen /ˈɑːksɪʤən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a chemical that is found in the air, that has no color, taste, or smell, and that is necessary for life ▪ breathing pure *oxygen* — often used before another noun ▪ an *oxygen* tank ▪ The doctors monitored *oxygen* levels in her blood.

ox·y·gen·ate /ˈɑːksɪʤəˌneɪt/ *verb* **-ates; -at·ed; -at·ing** [+ *obj*] *technical* : to add oxygen to (something) ▪ *oxygenate* the blood

– **ox·y·gen·a·tion** /ˌɑːsɪʤəˈneɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

oxygen mask *noun, pl* ~ **masks** [*count*] : a mask worn over your nose and mouth so that you can breathe oxygen from a storage tank

oxygen tent *noun, pl* ~ **tents** [*count*] : a piece of medical equipment that surrounds the body or head of a patient like a small, clear tent and that is filled with flowing oxygen

ox·y·mo·ron /ˌɑːksɪˈmoəˌɑːn/ *noun, pl* **-rons** [*count*] : a combination of words that have opposite or very different meanings ▪ The phrase "cruel kindness" is an *oxymoron*.

– **ox·y·mo·ron·ic** /ˌɑːksɪməˈrɑːnɪk/ *adj* ▪ an *oxymoronic* statement/concept

oys·ter /ˈoɪstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a type of shellfish that has a rough shell with two parts and that is eaten both cooked and raw — see color picture on page C8

the world is your oyster *informal* ✧ If *the world is your oyster*, your life is good and you have the ability to do whatever you want to do. ▪ We were young and happy, and *the world was our oyster*.

oyster bed *noun, pl* ~ **beds** [*count*] : a place in the ocean where oysters grow

oyster cracker *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *US* : a small salted cracker that is usually round

oysters Rocke·fel·ler /-ˈrɑːkɪˌfɛlɚ/ *noun* [*plural*] *US* : cooked oysters that are covered with various toppings (such as spinach) and a buttery sauce and served on their shells

oz. *abbr, US* ounce; ounces

Oz /ˈɑːz/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit, informal* — used as a name for Australia

ozone /ˈoʊˌzoʊn/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : a form of oxygen that is found in a layer high in the earth's atmosphere ▪ Scientists are concerned about *ozone* depletion. ▪ an ***ozone-friendly*** product [=a product that will not reduce the ozone in the upper atmosphere]

2 *chiefly Brit, informal* : fresh healthy air especially near the sea ▪ A light breeze filled the rooms of our seaside cottage with *ozone*.

ozone hole *noun, pl* ~ **holes** [*count*] : an area of the ozone layer where there is very little ozone

ozone layer *noun* [*noncount*] : a layer of ozone in the upper atmosphere that prevents dangerous radiation from the Sun from reaching the surface of the Earth

O

P

[1]p *or* **P** /ˈpi:/ *noun, pl* **p's** *or* **ps** *or* **P's** *or* **Ps** /ˈpi:z/ : the 16th letter of the English alphabet [*count*] a word that starts with a *p* [*noncount*] a word that starts with *p*

mind your p's and q's *also US* ***watch your p's and q's*** : to be careful about behaving in a polite or proper way ▪ We knew to *mind our p's and q's* around our aunt.

[2]p *abbr* **1** *or* **p.** page ▪ *p.* 46 ✧ The abbreviation for "pages" is **pp.** ▪ *pp.* 46–48 **2** per ▪ mph [=miles per hour] **3** *Brit* pence; penny ▪ That costs 40*p*.

pa /ˈpɑ:/ *noun, pl* **pas** [*count*] *informal + old-fashioned* : a person's father ▪ my ma and *pa* ▪ *Pa*, can I go out?

p.a. *abbr, chiefly Brit* per annum

[1]PA *abbr* Pennsylvania

[2]PA /ˌpi:ˈeɪ/ *noun, pl* **PAs** [*count*]

1 : a machine with a microphone and speakers used for making announcements in a public place — usually used with *the* ▪ The name of the raffle winner was announced over *the PA*. — called also *PA system, public address system*

2 *US* : PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT

PAC /ˈpæk/ *noun, pl* **PACs** [*count*] *US* : POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

[1]pace /ˈpeɪs/ *noun, pl* **pac·es**

1 [*singular*] **a** : the speed at which someone or something moves ▪ He can run at a decent *pace*. [=he can run fairly fast] ▪ We walked at a leisurely *pace* along the shore. ▪ I told the kids to ***pick/step up the pace***. [=go faster] ▪ He rode his bike up the hill ***at a snail's pace***. [=very slowly] ▪ We encourage you to hike the trail ***at your own pace***. [=at a speed that suits you and lets you be comfortable] **b** : the speed at which something happens ▪ The *pace* of the story was slow. ▪ His new album is selling at a blistering/breakneck/dizzying *pace*. ▪ Despite quickly advancing medical technology, the *pace* [=(more commonly) *rate*] of change in her field remained slow and steady. ▪ She liked the fast ***pace of life*** in the city. [=she liked the fast way things happened in the city] — see also CHANGE OF PACE

2 [*count*] : a single step or the length of a single step — usually plural ▪ The tree is about 30 *paces* from the front door. ▪ The dog walked a few *paces* behind us.

go through your paces : to do something in order to show others how well you do it ▪ The athletes *went through their paces* as the coaches looked on. ▪ a show horse *going through its paces* for the judges

keep pace with : to go or make progress at the same speed as (someone or something else) ▪ Our production can't *keep pace with* [=*keep up with*] the orders coming in. ▪ The law has not *kept pace with* technology. [=the law has not changed fast enough to reflect changes in technology] ▪ She struggles to *keep pace with* her classmates.

off the pace *US* : behind in a race, competition, etc. ▪ The winner finished in 4 minutes, 30 seconds, and the next runner was three seconds *off the pace*. [=finished three seconds later] ▪ The other runners were way *off the pace*.

put someone or something through his/her/its paces : to test what someone or something can do ▪ We brought home three different computers and *put them through their paces*.

set the pace : to be the one that is at the front in a race and that controls how fast the other racers have to go ▪ As our fastest runner, he usually *sets the pace* for the rest of the team. — often used figuratively ▪ The company's advanced equipment *sets the pace* for the recording industry. — see also PACESETTER

[2]pace *verb* **paces**; **paced**; **pac·ing**

1 : to walk back and forth across the same space again and again especially because you are nervous [+ *obj*] He *paced* the floor/room. [*no obj*] When she gets nervous she *paces* back and forth. ▪ He was *pacing* and muttering to himself.

2 [+ *obj*] : to control or set the speed of (someone or something) ▪ She *paced* the other runners for the first half of the race. ▪ Advertisements are *paced* so that they are shown more often during peak sales seasons. — see also OUTPACE

pace off [*phrasal verb*] ***pace (something) off*** *or* ***pace off (something)*** : to measure (something) by walking and counting the number of steps you take ▪ The new garden is 25 feet long. I *paced* it *off*. ▪ *Pace off* 20 feet.

pace yourself : to do something at a speed that is steady and that allows you to continue without becoming too tired ▪ If you don't *pace yourself*, you'll wear yourself out. ▪ He quickly learned he would need to *pace himself* so he could get all of his work done.

– **paced** *adj* ▪ a moderately *paced* stroll ▪ a frenetically *paced* comedy ▪ a well-*paced* meal ▪ fast-*paced* music

– **pacing** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Her continuous *pacing* was making me anxious. ▪ The *pacing* of the movie was all wrong. [=the events in the movie happened too quickly or slowly]

pace·mak·er /ˈpeɪsˌmeɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 *medical* : a small electrical machine put inside a person to make the heart beat evenly

2 *Brit* : PACESETTER

pace·set·ter /ˈpeɪsˌsɛtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] *US* : a person who runs ahead of the other runners in a race in order to set a pace — often used figuratively ▪ The company has continued to be the industry's *pacesetter*.

pachy·derm /ˈpækɪˌdɚm/ *noun, pl* **-derms** [*count*] : a type of animal that has hooves and thick skin; *especially* : ELEPHANT

pa·cif·ic /pəˈsɪfɪk/ *adj*

1 ***Pacific*** : of, relating to, bordering on, or near the Pacific Ocean ▪ a *Pacific* nation ▪ fishing in *Pacific* waters

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] *literary* **a** : calm and peaceful ▪ a *pacific* setting **b** : loving peace : not wanting war or conflict ▪ a *pacific* people

Pacific Rim *noun*

the Pacific Rim : a group of countries that are in or next to the Pacific Ocean — used especially of Asian countries on the Pacific Ocean ▪ His family immigrated from *the Pacific Rim*.

pac·i·fi·er /ˈpæsəˌfajɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *US* : a rubber object shaped like a nipple for babies to suck or bite on — called also (*Brit*) *dummy*

pac·i·fism /ˈpæsəˌfɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the belief that it is wrong to use war or violence to settle disputes

pac·i·fist /ˈpæsəfɪst/ *noun, pl* **-fists** [*count*] : someone who believes that war and violence are wrong and who refuses to participate in or support a war ▪ A group of *pacifists* were protesting the war.

– **pacifist** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ He did not enter the army because of his *pacifist* beliefs/ideals.

pac·i·fy /ˈpæsəˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause (someone who is angry or upset) to become calm or quiet ▪ *pacify* [=*soothe*] a crying child ▪ She resigned from her position to *pacify* her accusers.

2 : to cause or force (a country, a violent group of people, etc.) to become peaceful ▪ Their efforts to *pacify* the nation by force failed. ▪ trying to *pacify* a mob of protesters

– **pac·i·fi·ca·tion** /ˌpæsəfəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Many died in the years before *pacification*.

[1]pack /ˈpæk/ *noun, pl* **packs** [*count*]

1 : a bag or bundle of objects that is carried on a person's or animal's back ▪ He took a map and a bottle of water out of his *pack*. ▪ hikers carrying heavy *packs* up a mountain ▪ They loaded the *packs* onto the horses. — see also BACKPACK, FANNY PACK

2 *chiefly US* **a** : a small paper or cardboard package in which small things are sold ▪ a *pack* [=(*Brit*) *packet*] of gum/cigarettes/needles ▪ The entire *pack* of crayons spilled on the floor. ▪ Cigarettes typically come in *packs* of 20. **b** : the amount contained in one pack ▪ He smokes two *packs* (of cigarettes) a day. — see also SIX-PACK

3 *Brit* : PACKET 2b ▪ You'll receive your informational *pack* upon arrival.

4 : a complete set of playing cards : DECK ▪ Take a card from the top and put it in the middle of the *pack*.

5 : a group of similar people or things ▪ A *pack* of reporters were following them wherever they went. ▪ *packs* of teenagers/lawyers/thieves ▪ The information he gave us was just a ***pack of lies***. [=all lies] ▪ One writer ***stands out from the pack***. [=one writer is different from the others] ▪ She's not content to simply ***follow the pack***. [=to do what everyone else does]

6 : a large number of people who are grouped together dur-

ing a race or competition — usually singular ▪ In the last few seconds, she broke/drew/pulled away from the *pack* and won the race. ▪ The company is trying to stay ahead of the *pack*. [=ahead of their competitors]

7 : a group of usually wild animals that hunt together ▪ a wolf *pack* ▪ a *pack* of wild dogs ▪ animals that hunt in *packs*

8 a : an organized group of Cub Scouts ▪ Cub Scout *Pack* No. 5398 **b** *chiefly Brit* : an organized group of Brownies ▪ a Brownie *pack* [=(*US*) *troop*]

9 : a thick, wet substance that is put on the skin as a beauty treatment ▪ an herbal face *pack* ▪ mud *packs*

10 : a folded cloth that is pressed against a part of the body to reduce pain or stop bleeding from an injury ▪ a cold *pack* [=*compress*] — see also ICE PACK

²pack *verb* **packs; packed; pack·ing**

1 a [+ *obj*] : to put (something) into a bag, suitcase, etc., so that you can take it with you ▪ Don't forget to *pack* your toothbrush. ▪ Be sure to *pack* your bathing suit and a towel. ▪ I've *packed* a picnic lunch for us. ▪ *Pack* your things/gear. We're leaving tonight. **b** : to put things into (a bag, box, etc.) [+ *obj*] We *packed* our bags the night before our trip. ▪ Have you *packed* your suitcase yet? ▪ My bags are *packed*, and I'm ready to go. ▪ *packing* and unpacking boxes [*no obj*] I spent the evening *packing* for my trip. ▪ She *packed* [=*packed up*] and left. ▪ We had only one week to *pack* and move out of our apartment. — see also PACKED 4

2 [+ *obj*] : to put (something) into a box or other container so that it can be moved, stored, or protected ▪ We've *packed* [=*boxed*] (up) all our books. [=we've put all our books into boxes] — often + *in* or *into* ▪ They *pack* the meat *in* dry ice before shipping it. ▪ They *packed* the statue *into* a crate.

3 a [+ *obj*] : to fill (a place) with as many people as possible ▪ Over 25,000 people will *pack* the stadium for tonight's concert. ▪ a famous comedian who *packs* clubs in every city : to fill a place completely with (people) — often + *into* ▪ Concert organizers *pack* hundreds of people *into* tiny nightclubs. **b** *always followed by a preposition* [*no obj*] : to gather close together as a group ▪ Her fans *pack* into theaters to hear her sing. ▪ We all *packed* into the car. ▪ The entire family *packs* around a small table for dinner.

4 [+ *obj*] : to put a large amount of something into (something) ▪ directors who *pack* their movies full of violence — often + *with* ▪ They *pack* their magazine *with* lots of helpful decorating ideas. ▪ The van had been *packed with* explosives. — see also PACKED 2

5 [+ *obj*] : to make (dirt, snow, etc.) more firm or solid by pressing down on it ▪ *Pack* the soil firmly around the roots of the plant. ▪ Other skiers had already *packed* the snow down. — see also PACKED 1

6 [+ *obj*] *US* : to unfairly control the kinds of people or things that are in (a group, list, etc.) in order to get the result you want ▪ They *packed* the meeting with their supporters. ▪ *packing* juries with people of a particular race

7 [+ *obj*] *somewhat informal* : to have or be able to produce (something powerful) ▪ The storm is *packing* hurricane-force winds. ▪ an engine that *packs* a lot of power [=an engine that is very powerful]

8 *US, informal* : to wear or carry (a weapon) [+ *obj*] They might be *packing* guns/pistols/weapons. ▪ She's ***packing heat***. [=she's carrying a gun] [*no obj*] We don't know if he's *packing* or not.

pack a punch/wallop *informal* : to be very forceful or effective ▪ Careful—these hot peppers really *pack a punch*. [=they are very hot and spicy] ▪ Unlike her last album, her new release *packs a wallop*. [=it is forceful and energetic]

pack away [*phrasal verb*] ***pack (something) away*** *or* ***pack away (something)*** : to put (something) in a safe place to be used at a later time ▪ It's time to *pack away* your winter clothes and get ready for summer. ▪ Her grandmother's dolls had been *packed away* in the attic for many years.

pack in [*phrasal verb*] **1** *Brit, informal* : to stop or quit ▪ I have no intention of *packing in* just yet. **2 a** ***pack in (someone or something)*** *or* ***pack (someone or something) in*** : to cause (someone or something) to fit into a small space ▪ My suitcase was full, but I managed to *pack in* one more sweater. ▪ There must have been a hundred people in that room. They *packed* us *in* like sardines! — see also ²PACK 2 (above) **b** ***pack in (people)*** *or* ***pack (people) in*** : to cause (large groups of people) to come to a show or performance ▪ His show still *packs in* (the) crowds/audiences. [=large crowds/audiences still go to his show] ▪ *packing in* fans of all ages ▪ The movie has been ***packing them in*** at theaters across the country. **3** ***pack in (something)*** **a** *US, informal* : to stop using (something) forever ▪ She isn't *packing in* her skis [=she is not giving up skiing] just yet. ▪ I decided to *pack in* my paintbrushes and go to business school. **b** *Brit, informal* : to give up doing (something) ▪ He *packed in* [=*quit*] his job and became a farmer. ▪ They might *pack in* [=*stop, give up*] the project altogether. **4** ***pack it in*** *informal* : to stop doing a job or an activity : QUIT ▪ Do you think we should *pack it in* or keep going? ▪ They were ready to *pack it in* for the day.

pack in/into [*phrasal verb*] ***pack (something) in/into (something)*** : to put (a large amount of something) into (something) ▪ She *packs* a lot of information *in* her short essays.

pack off [*phrasal verb*] ***pack (someone) off*** : to send (someone) away to a different place — usually + *to* ▪ Despite his protests, his mom *packed* him *off to* bed. [=sent him to bed] ▪ parents *packing* their kids *off to* college

pack on the pounds *or* ***pack on five/ten/fifteen (etc.) pounds*** *chiefly US, informal* : to gain weight or a certain amount of weight ▪ Americans are continuing to *pack on the pounds*. ▪ He hopes to *pack on 20 pounds* of muscle before the competition.

pack out [*phrasal verb*] ***pack out (a place)*** *Brit* : to cause (a place) to be filled with people ▪ The band still *packs out* stadiums throughout the world. : to fill (a place) ▪ Over 600 people *packed out* the theatre.

pack up [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***pack up*** *or* ***pack up (something)*** *or* ***pack (something) up*** **a** : to gather things together so that you can take them with you ▪ He *packed up* and left town. ▪ You may take a few minutes to *pack up* your things, but then you must leave. ▪ You should *pack up* your tools at the end of the day. **b** *Brit, informal* : to stop or quit : to give up doing (something) ▪ She *packs up* when things become difficult. ▪ She *packed up* her teaching job after five years. **2** *Brit, informal* : to stop working properly ▪ The lift has *packed up*, so you'll have to take the stairs to her flat.

pack your bags : to leave a place ▪ I told him to shape up or he could *pack his bags*. ▪ He said goodbye and *packed his bags* for Denmark.

send (someone or something) packing see SEND

– pack·able /ˈpækəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ *packable* clothing

¹pack·age /ˈpækɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ag·es** [*count*]

1 *chiefly US* : a box or large envelope that is sent or delivered usually through the mail or by another delivery service ▪ The mail carrier left the *package* [=*parcel*] on the front steps. — see picture at MAIL

2 *US* **a** : a wrapper or container that covers or holds something ▪ All ingredients are listed right on the *package*. **b** : something that comes in a container ▪ You'll need a 12-ounce *package* [=(*Brit*) *packet*] of chocolate chips for the cookies. ▪ She ate the whole *package* of crackers for lunch.

3 a : a group of related things that are sold together for a single price ▪ The hotel, airfare, and museum fees were all part of our vacation *package*. ▪ a software *package* [=a group of computer programs that are sold together] **b** : a group of related things that go together ▪ My new job offers a great benefits *package*. [=my new job offers great benefits] ▪ The financial aid *packages* we'll be awarding this year are smaller than we had hoped they would be. ▪ (*informal*) If you let her move in with you, living with her cat is all ***part of the package***. [=it is part of the situation that you will have to accept]

good things come in small packages — used to say that people or things do not have to be large to be good

²package *verb* **-ages; -aged; -ag·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to put (something) in a package in order to sell it or send it somewhere ▪ *Package* the books carefully. — often used as *(be) packaged* ▪ The china needs to *be packaged* properly.

2 : to show or present (something or someone) in a particular way — often used as *(be) packaged* ▪ If the issue *is* not *packaged* correctly, it will not get voters to come to the polls.

– packaged *adj* ▪ individually *packaged* food ▪ *packaged* goods [=things that are sold in packages]

package deal *noun, pl* **~ deals** [*count*]

1 : PACKAGE TOUR

2 : a group of people or things which must be accepted together ▪ They presented their proposals to the committee as a *package deal*.

package store *noun, pl* **~ stores** [*count*] *US* : a store that sells alcoholic beverages : a liquor store

package tour *noun, pl* **~ tours** [*count*] : a group of services related to travel or vacations that are sold together for one price ▪ They got the bus tour, hotel room, and plane ticket as

a *package tour*. — called also *package deal*, (*Brit*) *package holiday*

packaging *noun* [*noncount*]
1 a : material used to enclose or contain something ▪ The frozen spinach can be heated up right in its original *packaging*. ▪ The colorful *packaging* of many candy bars attracts the eyes of children. **b :** the act or process of putting something in a package or container ▪ *packaging* and shipping services
2 : the way something or someone is presented in order to be more attractive or appealing ▪ the *packaging* of a political candidate

pack animal *noun, pl* ~ **-mals** [*count*] : an animal (such as a horse or donkey) that is used for carrying packs

packed /ˈpækt/ *adj*
1 : pressed together so there is very little space between the parts or pieces ▪ *packed* snow/dirt/earth ▪ Add one cup of firmly *packed* brown sugar. ▪ ½ cup loosely *packed* fresh parsley — see also VACUUM-PACKED
2 : filled with a large amount of something ▪ Oranges are ***packed full of*** vitamin C. — usually + *with* ▪ The magazine is *packed with* lots of ideas for decorating your home. ▪ a novel *packed with* romance and suspense ▪ The garage is *packed with* junk. ▪ a room *packed* to the brim/ceiling/rafters/roof *with* books — see also ACTION-PACKED, JAM-PACKED
3 a : full of people : filled with as many people as possible ▪ a *packed* auditorium ▪ The stadium was *packed* (full) with sports fans. = It was *packed* to capacity/bursting/overflowing. ▪ The theater is always *packed* when he performs there. **b** *of a crowd of people* : large enough to fill a space or place ▪ bands playing to *packed* audiences/crowds
4 — used to say that you have finished putting things into bags, boxes, etc. ▪ We're (all) *packed* and ready to go. [=we have packed everything we need and are ready to go]
packed out *Brit, informal* : filled with as many people as possible ▪ The theatre is always *packed out* (with fans) when he performs there.

packed lunch *noun, pl* ~ **lunch•es** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : BAG LUNCH

pack•er /ˈpækɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person or company that prepares and packages products and sends them to people or stores ▪ She worked as a *packer* for a candy company. ▪ meat *packers*

pack•et /ˈpækət/ *noun, pl* **-ets**
1 [*count*] **a** *US* : a small, thin package ▪ I got two *packets* of broccoli seeds to plant this summer. ▪ He puts two *packets* of sugar in his coffee. ▪ Could you get me another *packet* of ketchup? — called also (*Brit*) *sachet* **b** *Brit* : a package in which something is sold and bought ▪ a *packet* [=(*US*) *box*] of crackers ▪ a *packet* [=(*US*) *pack*] of cigarettes
2 [*count*] **a** *US* : a group of things that have been gathered together for a particular purpose and usually put into a container (such as a folder or a large envelope) ▪ Your information *packet* includes a map and a schedule of all the events at the conference. ▪ The senator's comments are included in his ***press packet*** [=papers that give reporters official statements from public figures] **b** *chiefly Brit* : a small, thin package sent through the mail or delivered to a person ▪ I received the *packet* of legal papers today.
3 [*count*] *computers* : an amount of information that is sent as a single unit from one computer to another over a network or the Internet
4 [*singular*] *Brit, informal* : a large amount of money ▪ The furniture wasn't expensive but we spent a *packet* on shipping charges.

pack•horse /ˈpækˌhoɚs/ *noun, pl* **-hors•es** [*count*] : a horse used for carrying things

pack ice *noun* [*noncount*] : a very large sheet of ice floating in the sea that is made from smaller pieces that have frozen together

[1]pack•ing /ˈpækɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the act or process of putting things into bags or boxes ▪ We finished all our *packing* yesterday.
2 : material that is used to hold or protect things so that they can be moved or sent somewhere ▪ I used some old newspapers for *packing*. ▪ (*Brit*) For mail-order purchases, add £2.50 to the price to cover ***postage and packing***

[2]packing *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : used to hold or protect things so that they can be moved or sent somewhere ▪ *packing* materials ▪ a *packing* case/box/crate
2 : doing the job of preparing and wrapping products and sending them to people or stores ▪ a *packing* plant/factory/house

pack rat *noun, pl* ~ **rats** [*count*] *US, informal* : a person who collects or keeps things that are not needed ▪ I'm a terrible *pack rat*. I never throw anything away.

pact /ˈpækt/ *noun, pl* **pacts** [*count*] : a formal agreement between two countries, people, or groups especially to help each other or to stop fighting ▪ We supported a peace/free-trade/nonaggression *pact* between the two countries. ▪ They made a *pact* to go to the gym together three times a week. — see also SUICIDE PACT

pacy /ˈpeɪsi/ *adj* **pac•i•er**; **-est** *Brit, informal* : moving quickly : having a fast pace ▪ He's a small but *pacy* player. ▪ The movie is a *pacy* thriller.

[1]pad /ˈpæd/ *noun, pl* **pads** [*count*]
1 a : an object that is thin, flat, and usually soft ▪ He sits with a foam *pad* behind him to help support his lower back. ▪ The doctor put a gauze *pad* over the wound. ▪ She lay in bed with a ***heating pad*** [=an electric mat that heats up and is held against the body to reduce pain] ▪ a ***mattress pad*** [=a covering that goes under a sheet on a bed to protect the mattress] ▪ She had trouble finding a suit jacket without ***shoulder pads*** [=small pads used to shape the shoulders of a shirt, dress, or jacket] ▪ You need to replace your car's ***brake pads*** [=the part of the brakes that are pressed on the wheel when you stop or slow down the car] — see also INK PAD **b** *sports* : a covering for a specific part of the body that is worn to protect that part from injury — usually plural ▪ The football players wore their helmets and shoulder and hip *pads* to practice today. ▪ She wears elbow and knee *pads* when she goes skating. **c :** SANITARY NAPKIN **d :** a usually rough piece of material used in cleaning ▪ a scouring *pad*
2 : a set of paper sheets for writing or drawing that are glued or fastened at one edge ▪ They keep a *pad* and pencil by the phone. ▪ a ***sketch pad*** [=a notebook or pad of blank paper for drawing] — see also NOTEPAD, SCRATCH PAD
3 : the soft part on the bottom of the foot of a dog, cat, etc.
4 *informal + old-fashioned or humorous* : the place where someone lives — usually singular ▪ She lent me the keys to her *pad* while she was away. ▪ He held many wild parties in his ***bachelor pad***
5 : a flat area on the ground where helicopters can take off or land ▪ The town has no airport but there is a landing *pad* near the hospital. — see also LAUNCHPAD
6 : LILY PAD
– see also KEYPAD

[2]pad *verb* **pads**; **pad•ded**; **pad•ding** [+ *obj*]
1 : to cover or fill (something) with soft material especially to protect it or make it more comfortable ▪ He *padded* the inside of the box with cloth and crumpled newspaper. ▪ She used a cushion to *pad* the bench.
2 : to make (something) larger, longer, or more attractive by adding things that are unnecessary, unimportant, or false ▪ She *padded* (out) her speech with quotes from local citizens. ▪ He hoped that by *padding* his résumé his lack of experience would be overlooked.
3 *US* : to dishonestly add more charges to (a bill) in order to collect more money than is owed ▪ He *padded* the bill he sent to the company for his consulting work.
– compare [3]PAD

[3]pad *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **pads**; **pad•ded**; **pad•ding** [*no obj*] : to move with quiet steps ▪ She *padded* around/about (the house) all day in her pajamas. ▪ The dog *padded* into the bedroom. — compare [2]PAD

padded *adj* : filled or covered with soft material ▪ a *padded* envelope ▪ The boxers are wearing thickly/heavily *padded* gloves. ▪ a *padded* bra ▪ The chairs have *padded* seats.

padded cell *noun, pl* ~ **cells** [*count*] : a room in a mental hospital that has soft walls so that patients cannot hurt themselves

padding *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : soft material used to cover a hard surface in order to make it more comfortable ▪ the *padding* on the seat of the chairs ▪ These shoes have extra *padding* in the heel.
2 : unnecessary words used to make a speech or a piece of writing longer ▪ If you remove the *padding* from his speech you can see that he offers no new ideas.

[1]pad•dle /ˈpædl/ *noun, pl* **pad•dles** [*count*]
1 : a long, usually wooden pole that has a wide, flat part at the end and is used to move and steer a small boat (such as a canoe) — see picture at BOAT; compare OAR
2 *US* : an object with a short handle and a wide, flat part that

is used to hit the ball in various games (such as table tennis) **3 :** any one of various tools or devices that are wide, flat, and thin ▪ Use the mixer's *paddle* attachment to mix the dough. ▪ The potter used a *paddle* to shape the clay.

up the creek without a paddle see CREEK

[2]pad•dle *verb* **paddles; pad•dled; pad•dling**

1 : to move a boat forward through water with a paddle [*no obj*] We *paddled* across the lake in our canoe this morning. [+ *obj*] We *paddled* our canoe across the lake this morning. ▪ Get in the boat and I'll *paddle* you to shore.

2 [*no obj*] **:** to swim by moving your hands and feet in short quick motions ▪ The dog *paddled* across the lake. — see also DOG-PADDLE

3 [+ *obj*] *US* **:** to beat or hit (someone or something) with a flat piece of wood ▪ In those days many people believed it was okay to *paddle* children. ▪ (*informal*) If you don't get in here, I'm going to *paddle* your behind.

– compare [3]PADDLE

[3]paddle *verb* **paddles; paddled; paddling** [*no obj*] *Brit* **:** to walk or play in shallow water for pleasure ▪ They took off their sandals and *paddled* [=(*US*) *waded*] at the edge of the pond. — compare [2]PADDLE

– paddle *noun* [*singular*] ▪ The children ***went for a paddle*** before lunch.

pad•dle•boat /ˈpædl̩ˌboʊt/ *noun, pl* **-boats** [*count*]

1 *US* **:** a small boat with paddle wheels that you turn by moving pedals with your feet like someone riding a bicycle — called also *pedal boat*, (*Brit*) *pedalo*

2 : a large, old-fashioned boat that moves along the water using a large paddle wheel usually turned by steam power

paddle wheel *noun, pl* ~ **wheels** [*count*] **:** a wheel that moves through water as it turns and has a series of paddles around its outer edge

paddling pool *noun, pl* ~ **pools** [*count*] *Brit* **:** WADING POOL

pad•dock /ˈpædək/ *noun, pl* **-docks** [*count*]

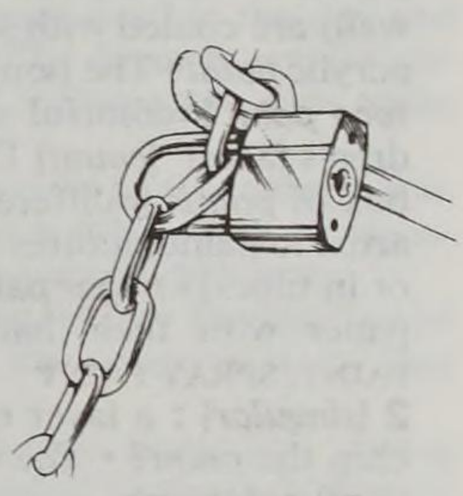
1 : a small field where animals (such as horses) are kept

2 : an enclosed area at a race track where horses, dogs, etc., are kept before a race

pad•dy /ˈpædi/ *noun, pl* **-dies** [*count*] **:** a wet field where rice is grown ▪ rice *paddies*

paddy wagon *noun, pl* ~ **-ons** [*count*] *US, informal* **:** PATROL WAGON

pad•lock /ˈpædˌlɑːk/ *noun, pl* **-locks** [*count*] **:** a strong lock with a curved bar that connects to the main part of the lock and holds together two parts of something (such as a chain or a gate)



padlock

– padlock *verb* **-locks; -locked; -lock•ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ She *padlocked* the garage door. ▪ The front gate was *padlocked*.

pa•dre /ˈpɑːdreɪ/ *noun, pl* **-dres** [*count*] *informal*

1 : a Christian priest

2 : a Christian clergyman who works in the military

pad thai *or* **pad Thai** /ˈpɑːdˈtaɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US* **:** a Thai dish of rice noodles that are stir-fried with other ingredients (such as seafood, chicken, egg, or bean sprouts)

pae•an /ˈpiːjən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*] *literary* **:** a song of joy, praise, or victory

paediatric, paediatrician, paediatrics *chiefly Brit spellings of* PEDIATRIC, PEDIATRICIAN, PEDIATRICS

paedophile *Brit spelling of* PEDOPHILE

pa•el•la /pɑˈejə/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** a Spanish dish of rice, meat, seafood, vegetables, and spices

pa•gan *also* **Pagan** /ˈpeɪgən/ *noun, pl* **-gans** [*count*]

1 : a person who worships many gods or goddesses or the earth or nature **:** a person whose religion is paganism

2 *old-fashioned + often offensive* **:** a person who is not religious or whose religion is not Christianity, Judaism, or Islam

– pagan *adj* ▪ *pagan* religions

pa•gan•ism /ˈpeɪgəˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the state of being pagan ▪ the *paganism* of early Rome

2 *also* ***Paganism*** **:** a religion that has many gods or goddesses, considers the earth holy, and does not have a central authority ▪ He is a practitioner of *Paganism*.

[1]page /ˈpeɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **pag•es** [*count*]

1 a : one side of a sheet of paper especially in a book, magazine, etc. ▪ The book is 237 *pages* long. ▪ The article continues on *page* 12. ▪ a three-*page* article ▪ See the chart on the following/facing/opposite/next *page*. ▪ They ran the story on the front *page* of the newspaper. ▪ a ***blank page*** [=a sheet of paper that does not have anything written on it] ▪ It was thrilling to finally see her poetry ***on the printed page***. [=in a book, magazine, etc.] ▪ The computer will automatically put a ***page number*** at the bottom of each *page*. — abbr. *p*; see also FRONT-PAGE, TITLE PAGE **b :** the material printed or written on a page ▪ Read the second *page* out loud. ▪ The event described in these *pages* is nothing like what I remember. ▪ the ***sports/financial/business pages*** [=the part of the newspaper that has sports, financial information, business news, etc.] **c :** a sheet of paper in a book, magazine, etc. ▪ He ripped a *page* out of the phone book. — see also WHITE PAGES, YELLOW PAGES

2 : one section of a Web site that is found at a single address ▪ You'll find that information on the "Contact Us" *page*. — see also HOME PAGE, WEB PAGE

3 *literary* **:** an important event or period in history ▪ His accomplishments hold a special place in the ***pages of history***.

borrow/take a page from someone *or* ***borrow/take a page from someone's book*** *US* **:** to do the same thing that someone else has done ▪ You may want to *borrow/take a page from his book* and study harder for your finals.

jump/leap off the page *of writing, a picture, etc.* **:** to be very noticeable, interesting, exciting, etc. ▪ The characters are so real that they *leap off the page*.

on the same page *chiefly US, informal* **:** agreeing about something (such as how things should be done) ▪ Try to get employees and clients *on the same page*. ▪ Make sure everyone is *on the same page* before you give your final answer.

– compare [4]PAGE

[2]page *verb* **pages; paged; pag•ing**

page through [*phrasal verb*] ***page through (something)*** **:** to turn the pages of (a book, magazine, etc.) especially in a quick, steady manner ▪ He *paged through* the magazine looking for the article.

– compare [3]PAGE

[3]page *verb* **pages; paged; paging** [+ *obj*]

1 : to call the name of (someone) in a public place usually over a speaker in order to find that person, deliver a message, etc. ▪ You can *page* the manager if you need help.

2 : to send a message to (someone) by using a special device (called a pager or beeper) ▪ *Page* the doctor in case of an emergency. ▪ I'm going to switch to a new *paging* service.

– compare [2]PAGE

[4]page *noun, pl* **pages** [*count*]

1 *US* **:** a student who works as an assistant for a member of Congress

2 a : a young man or boy in the Middle Ages who trained to be a knight by serving a knight **b :** a young man or boy who worked as a servant for an important person in the Middle Ages

3 *Brit* **:** BELLHOP

– compare [1]PAGE

pag•eant /ˈpæʤənt/ *noun, pl* **-eants** [*count*]

1 *US* **:** BEAUTY CONTEST ▪ She entered a (beauty) *pageant*. ▪ They disagreed with the *pageant* judges.

2 : a play or performance made of scenes from a historical event or a legend ▪ Their church puts on an annual Christmas *pageant*. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The museum celebrates the rich *pageant* of the town's history. [=celebrates all the interesting things that have happened in the town's history]

pag•eant•ry /ˈpæʤəntri/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** the use of special clothing, traditions, and ceremonies as part of a special event or celebration ▪ I like the tradition and *pageantry* that come with graduations.

page•boy /ˈpeɪʤˌboɪ/ *noun, pl* **-boys** [*count*]

1 : a woman's haircut in which straight shoulder-length hair is curled under at the ends

2 *page boy* *Brit* **:** a boy who follows or stands with the bride in a wedding

3 *Brit* **:** BELLHOP

pag•er /ˈpeɪʤɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] **:** a small electronic device that beeps or vibrates and shows a telephone number for the person carrying the device to call — called also (*chiefly US*) *beeper*, (*Brit*) *bleeper*

page–turn•er /ˈpeɪʤˌtɚnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] **:** a book, story, etc., that is difficult to stop reading because it is so interesting ▪ His last novel was a real *page-turner*.

P

pag•i•na•tion /ˌpædʒəˈneɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical*
1 : the act or process of putting numbers on the pages of a book, document, etc. ▪ computerized *pagination*
2 : the page numbers on a book, document, etc. ▪ Is the *pagination* correct?
– **pag•i•nate** /ˈpædʒəˌneɪt/ *verb* **-nates**; **-nat•ed**; **-nat•ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ The program automatically *paginated* the document.

pa•go•da /pəˈgoʊdə/ *noun, pl* **-das** [*count*] : a type of tall building in eastern Asia that has many floors with roofs that stick out on each floor and curve up


pagoda

[1]paid /ˈpeɪd/ *past tense and past participle of* [1]PAY

[2]paid *adj*
1 a : receiving money for work ▪ She is one of the few *paid* public officials in a town run mostly by volunteers. **b** — used to indicate if someone receives low or high pay for work ▪ He got a job as a highly *paid* consultant. ▪ She is very well *paid*. ▪ low-*paid* workers
2 *chiefly US* **:** having been paid for ▪ a *paid* political announcement ▪ a *paid* advertisement
3 : including payment of normal wages, salary, etc. ▪ I get two weeks of *paid* vacation [=time off during which you receive your normal pay] at my new job. ▪ She was given a *paid* day off to deal with some personal matters.
put paid to *chiefly Brit, informal* **:** to end or stop (something) **:** to put an end to (something) ▪ The pressure of work *put paid to* his holiday plans!

pail /ˈpeɪl/ *noun, pl* **pails** [*count*] *chiefly US*
1 : a round container that is open at the top and usually has a handle ▪ a garbage *pail* ▪ A plastic beach *pail* was lying on the sand. ▪ Fill up that *pail* [=*bucket*] with water.
2 : the amount held by a pail ▪ She poured a *pail* of water on the campfire.

pail•ful /ˈpeɪlˌfʊl/ *noun, pl* **-fuls** [*count*] *chiefly US* **:** the amount held by a pail ▪ a *pailful* of water

[1]pain /ˈpeɪn/ *noun, pl* **pains**
1 : the physical feeling caused by disease, injury, or something that hurts the body [*noncount*] The medication may upset your stomach but if you experience acute abdominal *pain* call your doctor. ▪ I've had chronic back *pain* since the accident. ▪ It was obvious that she was ***in pain***. [=feeling pain] ▪ Each patient has a different ***pain threshold***. [=ability to tolerate pain] ▪ The medicine provides 12 hours of ***pain relief***. ▪ For a week after surgery she took prescription ***pain medication/relievers***. [=*painkillers*] [*count*] I feel a dull/sharp *pain* if I touch the bruise. — see also *aches and pains* at [2]ACHE
2 : mental or emotional suffering **:** sadness caused by some emotional or mental problem [*noncount*] They didn't want to cause him *pain*. [=they didn't want to upset or hurt him] ▪ the *pain* of a difficult childhood [*count*] It is a story about the joys and *pains* of life. — see also GROWING PAINS
3 [*singular*] *informal* **:** someone or something that causes trouble or makes you feel annoyed or angry ▪ Rush hour traffic is such a *pain*. ▪ This orange is a *pain* to peel. ▪ Our neighbor can be such a *pain*. [=*nuisance*] — often used in phrases like ***pain in the neck*** or (*impolite*) ***pain in the ass*** ▪ My little sister can be a (real/royal) *pain in the neck*.
be at pains **:** to try hard *to do* something ▪ They *were at pains to distance* themselves from the scandal.
feel no pain see [1]FEEL
go to great pains *or* ***take (great) pains*** **:** to be careful in doing something **:** to try hard to do something — followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ We *went to great pains* not *to offend* anyone. ▪ He *took great pains to explain* the situation to us.
no gain without pain see [2]GAIN
no pain, no gain see [2]GAIN
on/under pain of *formal* **:** at the risk of being given (a particular form of punishment) ▪ She was ordered to remain silent *under pain of* imprisonment. ▪ He cannot return to the country ***on pain of death***. [=he will be killed if he returns to the country]

[2]pain *verb* **pains**; **pained**; **pain•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* **:** to cause (someone) to feel emotional pain **:** to make (someone) upset, sad, worried, etc. ▪ He was deeply *pained* [=*hurt*] by your words. ▪ As much as it *pains* me to admit it, she was right.

pained /ˈpeɪnd/ *adj* **:** appearing upset, sad, worried, etc. ▪ She wore/had a *pained* expression on her face. ▪ He truly looked *pained* when he heard the news.

pain•ful /ˈpeɪnfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : causing pain to your body ▪ I got a *painful* sunburn. ▪ a *painful* skin condition ▪ His ankle is swollen and ***painful to the touch***. [=his ankle hurts if he touches it]
2 : causing emotional pain ▪ We can't ignore our country's *painful* history of slavery. ▪ His questions brought up a lot of *painful* memories. ▪ It was *painful* to watch.

pain•ful•ly /ˈpeɪnfəli/ *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : very or extremely — used especially to describe something that is bad, unpleasant, or upsetting ▪ They made it *painfully* obvious/clear that we were not welcome. [=they made it very clear in a way that was rude or upsetting that we were not welcome] ▪ After the injury she was *painfully* aware that her career in tennis would be over. ▪ New developments have been *painfully* slow. ▪ She is *painfully* shy.
2 : in a way that causes pain ▪ After her tooth was pulled, her jaw was *painfully* swollen.
3 : in a way that requires a lot of effort ▪ He labored *painfully* over his work.

pain•kill•er /ˈpeɪnˌkɪlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a drug that decreases or removes pain that you feel in your body ▪ I took some over-the-counter *painkillers* for my headache.
– **pain•kill•ing** /ˈpeɪnˌkɪlɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *painkilling* drugs

pain•less /ˈpeɪnləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not causing or marked by pain: such as **a :** not causing pain to the body ▪ a *painless* medical procedure **b :** not upsetting, disturbing, or difficult ▪ Buying my new car was a surprisingly *painless* experience. ▪ We had a relatively *painless* breakup.
– **pain•less•ly** *adv* ▪ We'll try to get through this as quickly and *painlessly* as possible.

pains•tak•ing /ˈpeɪnˌsteɪkɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : showing or done with great care and effort ▪ The book describes the election process in *painstaking* detail. ▪ *painstaking* work/research
– **pains•tak•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ The old house was *painstakingly* restored to its original splendor. ▪ She *painstakingly* researched all of her articles.

[1]paint /ˈpeɪnt/ *noun, pl* **paints**
1 : a liquid that dries to form a thin colored layer when it is spread on a surface [*noncount*] Apply *paint* to the canvas in a series of short strokes. ▪ I need more blue *paint*. ▪ The old walls are coated with several layers of *paint*. ▪ a can of latex/acrylic *paint* ▪ The house needs a fresh/second ***coat of paint***. ▪ ***face paint*** [=colorful makeup for drawing pictures on children's faces] [*count*] The store sells many different *paints*. ▪ a box of *paints* [=different types of paint that are used by an artist to paint pictures and that are usually sold in a dry form or in tubes] ▪ ***finger paints*** [=paints that children spread onto paper with their hands] — see also GREASEPAINT, OIL PAINT, SPRAY PAINT
2 [*singular*] **:** a layer of dried paint on a surface ▪ Did you chip the *paint*? ▪ The car's *paint* is cracking. — called also (*Brit*) *paintwork*

[2]paint *verb* **paints**; **paint•ed**; **paint•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] **:** to cover (something) with paint **:** to put paint on (something) ▪ I need to *paint* the bookcase. ▪ We're going to *paint* the room yellow. ▪ The classroom wall was *painted* with clouds and rainbows.
2 : to make (a picture or design) by using paints [+ *obj*] He *painted* that portrait of his wife. ▪ She *painted* the landscape on a square canvas. ▪ The store carries ***hand-painted*** tiles. [=tiles that have pictures or designs on them that were painted by a person and not by a machine] [*no obj*] She *paints* well. ▪ I like to draw and my sister likes to *paint*. ▪ The beauty of the world inspires me to *paint*. ▪ He *paints* mostly in oils. — compare DRAW
3 [+ *obj*] **:** to describe (someone or something) in a particular way ▪ The study *paints* a bleak/grim picture of the effects of pollution on animal life. ▪ Opponents *paint* a picture of the president as corrupt and irresponsible. = Opponents *paint* the president as corrupt and irresponsible.
4 [+ *obj*] **:** to put makeup on (a part of the body) ▪ She *painted* her nails with pink nail polish. ▪ She put on eye shadow and *painted* her lips with red lipstick.
paint over [*phrasal verb*] ***paint over (something)*** **:** to cover (something) with a layer of paint ▪ They *painted over* the graffiti.
paint the town (red) *informal* **:** to go out drinking, dancing, etc., to have a good time

paint•ball /ˈpeɪntˌbɑːl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a game in which

two teams use special guns to shoot balls filled with paint at each other

paint•brush /'peɪnt,brʌʃ/ *noun, pl* **-brush•es** [*count*] : a brush used for putting paint on a surface

paint•er /'peɪntɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a person whose job it is to paint walls, houses, etc. ▪ The *painters* were unable to work in the rain.
2 : an artist who paints pictures ▪ He became famous as an abstract/landscape/Impressionist *painter*. ▪ She was a *painter* of still lifes.

paint•er•ly /'peɪntɚli/ *adj*
1 : typical of painters ▪ He has a *painterly* eye. ▪ a *painterly* sensibility
2 [*more ~; most ~*] : suggesting a painting : made in a way that reminds you of a painting ▪ a *painterly* picture of the sea ▪ *painterly* brushstrokes

paint•ing /'peɪntɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**
1 [*count*] : a picture that is painted : a picture made by putting paint on a canvas, board, etc. ▪ They hung the *painting* in the living room. ▪ The woman in that *painting* is my grandmother. ▪ We went to see ancient ***cave paintings*** [=pictures painted on the wall of a cave] in Spain. — see also OIL PAINTING 2
2 [*noncount*] : the art or act of making pictures using paint ▪ I like *painting* more than sculpture. ▪ He is studying abstract/Chinese/watercolor *painting*. ▪ She wants to devote all her time to *painting*. — see also OIL PAINTING 1
3 [*noncount*] : the activity of painting houses, walls, etc. ▪ The room is ready for *painting*.

paint thinner *noun, pl* ~ **-ners** [*count, noncount*] : a liquid that is mixed with paint to make it easier to spread

paint•work /'peɪnt,wɚk/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : ¹PAINT 2

¹pair /'peɚ/ *noun, pl* **pairs** *or* **pair** [*count*]
1 : two things that are the same and are meant to be used together ▪ a *pair* of gloves ▪ a *pair* of shoes/socks ▪ He blushed when he saw all three *pairs* of eyes watching him. ▪ She won with a *pair* of aces. ▪ I can't do everything at once—I've only got ***one pair of hands***. [=I am only one person] ▪ It will take ***two pairs of hands*** [=two people] to move this rock.
2 : a thing that has two parts which are joined ▪ a *pair* of scissors ▪ a *pair* of pants/underwear ▪ I got my first *pair* of glasses when I was eight.
3 : two people who are related in some way or who do something together ▪ His two closest friends lived in the city and the *pair* of them visited him often. ▪ The dance is usually performed by a male and female *pair*. ▪ Those two kids make quite a *pair*.
4 : two animals that mate together ▪ To avoid competition, breeding/mating *pairs* stay away from other male chimpanzees. ▪ A *pair* of parrots can raise one chick each year.
in pairs : in a group of two people or things ▪ The teacher let the students work *in pairs* on the assignment. ▪ They walked down the aisle *in pairs*.

²pair *verb* **pairs**; **paired**; **pair•ing** [+ *obj*] : to put (two people or things) together ▪ The teacher *paired* students with partners for the assignment. — often used as *(be) paired* ▪ We met when we *were paired* to work together on the project. ▪ The suit *is paired* with black shoes for a sophisticated look. ▪ The fish *was paired* with a white wine.
pair off [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to join together in a romantic relationship ▪ He hated being single while his friends were *pairing off* and having kids. **2** ***pair off*** *or* ***pair (someone or something) off*** *or* ***pair off (someone or something)*** : to join with someone or something else to form a group of two ▪ People *paired off* for the next dance. ▪ She *paired* the students *off*. = She *paired off* the students.
pair up [*phrasal verb*] ***pair up*** *or* ***pair (someone or something) up*** *or* ***pair up (someone or something)*** : to join together or to cause (two people or things) to join together for a purpose, job, etc. ▪ The two organizations *paired up* to educate the public about the threat of global warming. ▪ They *paired* me *up* with a new partner for the last game. ▪ The program *pairs up* volunteers with children who need help learning to read.

pairing *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*]
1 : the action of putting two things or people into a group ▪ The play was a successful *pairing* of strong acting and an interesting script. ▪ People were surprised by the *pairing* of candidates for president and vice president.
2 : two things or people that work together with a single purpose ▪ The menu suggested many food and wine *pairings*.

pais•ley /'peɪzli/ *adj* : covered in a pattern made up of colorful curved shapes ▪ a *paisley* tie ▪ The wallpaper is a *paisley* print. — see color picture on page C12
– **paisley** *noun, pl* **-leys** [*count, noncount*] ▪ The fabric comes in *paisley*.

pa•ja•mas (*US*) *or Brit* **py•ja•mas** /pə'dʒɑ:məz/ *noun* [*plural*]
1 : clothing that people wear in bed or while relaxing at home ▪ silk *pajamas* ▪ Put on your *pajamas* [=*pj's*] and get ready for bed. — see color picture on page C12
2 : loose pants that are worn in some parts of Asia and the Middle East
the cat's pajamas see CAT
– **pa•ja•ma** (*US*) *or Brit* **py•ja•ma** /pə'dʒɑ:mə/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ The boys slept in only their *pajama* bottoms. ▪ She is having a ***pajama party*** [=a party for children who spend the night at the house of a friend] to celebrate her 10th birthday.

pak choi *Brit spelling of* BOK CHOY

Paki /'pæki/ *noun, pl* **Pakis** [*count*] *Brit, informal + offensive* : a person from Pakistan ✧ The word *Paki* is very offensive and should be avoided.

¹pal /'pæl/ *noun, pl* **pals** *informal*
1 [*count*] : a close friend ▪ We've been *pals* since we were kids. ▪ He and a *pal* [=*buddy*] started the business 15 years ago. ▪ Come on—be a *pal* and lend me the money. ▪ a ***gal pal*** [=a girl/woman who is a friend] — see also PEN PAL
2 — used to address a man in an angry or annoyed way ▪ Listen, *pal*, I've had just about enough of your advice. ▪ Wait a minute, *pal*. You're trying to trick me.

²pal *verb* **pals**; **palled**; **pal•ling**
pal around with [*phrasal verb*] *informal* ***pal around with (someone)*** *chiefly US* : to spend time with (someone) as a friend ▪ She's been *palling around with* a girl she met at school.
pal up [*phrasal verb*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : to become friends with someone ▪ They *palled up* when they were neighbors long ago. ▪ He *pals up* with anyone who can help his career.

¹pal•ace /'pæləs/ *noun, pl* **-ac•es** [*count*]
1 : the official home of a king, queen, president, etc. ▪ the royal/imperial/presidential *palace* ▪ Buckingham *Palace*
2 : a very large and impressive house : MANSION
3 *old-fashioned* : a large and fancy public building ▪ The town's old movie *palace* has been torn down. — often used in the names of buildings ▪ the Crystal *Palace* ▪ the *Palace* Hotel
4 ***the Palace*** *chiefly Brit* : the people who live in a palace; *especially* : the British royal family ▪ The prime minister left to inform *the Palace* in person.

²palace *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : of or relating to a palace ▪ a *palace* guard/official
2 : of, relating to, or involving people in the government ▪ *palace* politics ▪ a *palace* revolution/coup

palaeolithic, palaeontology *Brit spellings of* PALEOLITHIC, PALEONTOLOGY

pal•at•able /'pælətəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *somewhat formal*
1 : having a pleasant or agreeable taste ▪ *palatable* food ▪ a less than *palatable* beer
2 : pleasant or acceptable to someone — usually + *to* ▪ The play has been rewritten in an attempt to make it more *palatable to* modern audiences. ▪ Traveling by train is a *palatable* alternative *to* driving.
– **pal•at•abil•i•ty** /ˌpælətə'bɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

pal•a•tal /'pælətl/ *adj, linguistics, of a speech sound* : made by placing the tongue so that it is near or touching the top surface (called the palate) of your mouth ▪ The first sound in the English word "jar" is a *palatal* sound.
– **palatal** *noun, pl* **-tals** [*count*] ▪ English/German *palatals*

pal•ate /'pælət/ *noun, pl* **-ates** [*count*]
1 : the top part of the inside of your mouth : the roof of your mouth — see also CLEFT PALATE
2 : the sense of taste ▪ The restaurant serves Korean food adapted for the American *palate*. ▪ She's been working hard on a menu that will please the *palates* of all her guests. ▪ Sorbet is sometimes served between courses to ***cleanse the palate***. [=to clean and refresh your mouth between different parts of a meal]

pa•la•tial /pə'leɪʃəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very large and impressive : like a palace ▪ a *palatial* home

pa•la•ver /pə'lævɚ, *Brit* pə'lɑ:və/ *noun, informal*
1 [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : talk that is not important or mean-

ingful : NONSENSE ▪ Enough of this *palaver*. We have a lot to discuss.

2 [*singular*] *chiefly Brit* : excitement and activity caused by something that is not important ▪ What a *palaver* [=*fuss*] over nothing!

[1]pale /ˈpeɪl/ *adj* **pal•er**; **pal•est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : light in color ▪ the *pale* wood of the table ▪ The walls were painted a *pale* blue. — opposite DEEP

2 : having a skin color that is closer to white than is usual or normal ▪ She has a *pale* complexion. ▪ His *pale* [=*fair*] skin burns easily. ▪ Her illness had left her *pale* and weak. ▪ She grew/became *pale* with fright. ▪ Are you feeling well? You look *pale*.

3 *of light* : not bright or intense : DIM ▪ the *pale* light of dawn

4 : not as good as something else ▪ He was once a great athlete, but now he's just a *pale* version of his younger self. ▪ The remake of the movie was a ***pale imitation*** of the original.

– **pale•ness** /ˈpeɪlnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

[2]pale *verb* **pales**; **paled**; **pal•ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to lose color : to become pale ▪ His face *paled* (in fear) when he saw her walk through the door. ▪ The bright blue walls had *paled* over time.

2 : to appear less important, good, serious, etc., when compared with something else ▪ His accomplishments *pale* beside those of his father. ▪ Once you've tasted the local apples, all others ***pale by comparison***. [=all others seem less good] ▪ The afternoon meal ***paled in comparison to/with*** [=was not nearly as good as] the feast they had later. ▪ Last year's losses ***pale by comparison with*** this year's. ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) Your financial debt ***pales into insignificance*** [=seems much smaller] when you compare it with mine.

[3]pale *noun*

beyond the pale : offensive or unacceptable ▪ conduct that was *beyond the pale*

pale ale *noun, pl* ~ **ales** [*count, noncount*] : a type of ale that has a pale color and a somewhat bitter taste

Pa•leo•lith•ic (*chiefly US*) *or Brit* **Pal•aeo•lith•ic** /ˌpeɪlijəˈlɪθɪk, *Brit* ˌpæliəˈlɪθɪk/ *adj* : of or relating to the time during the early Stone Age when people made rough tools and weapons out of stone ▪ *Paleolithic* artifacts/tools/hunters ▪ the *Paleolithic* age/period — compare NEOLITHIC

pa•le•on•tol•o•gy (*chiefly US*) *or Brit* **pal•ae•on•tol•o•gy** /ˌpeɪliˌɑːnˈtɑːlədʒi, *Brit* ˌpæliənˈtɒlədʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the science that deals with the fossils of animals and plants that lived very long ago especially in the time of dinosaurs

– **pa•le•on•tol•o•gist** (*chiefly US*) *or Brit* **pal•ae•on•tol•o•gist** /ˌpeɪliˌɑːnˈtɑːlədʒɪst, *Brit* ˌpæliˌɒnˈtɒlədʒɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*]

pal•ette /ˈpælət/ *noun, pl* **-ettes** [*count*]

1 : a thin board that has a hole for the thumb at one end and that is used by a painter to mix colors while painting

2 : the range of colors used by someone — usually singular ▪ The designer's *palette* consists mainly of earth tones. ▪ The *palette* for this season's fashions is full of pastels.

palette knife *noun, pl* ~ **knives** [*count*]

1 : a knife that has a blade which bends easily and that is used by painters to mix colors and apply paint

2 *Brit* : SPATULA 2

pal•i•mo•ny /ˈpæləˌmoʊni/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : money that a court orders one person to pay to his or her former partner after they have stopped living together

pa•limp•sest /ˈpæləmpˌsɛst/ *noun, pl* **-sests** [*count*]

1 *technical* : a very old document on which the original writing has been erased and replaced with new writing

2 *formal* : something that has changed over time and shows evidence of that change ▪ The ancient city is an architectural *palimpsest*. ▪ a *palimpsest* of memories

pal•in•drome /ˈpælənˌdroʊm/ *noun, pl* **-dromes** [*count*] : a word, phrase, or number that reads the same backward or forward ▪ The word "dad" and the number "1881" are *palindromes*.

paling *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a piece of wood that is one of the upright pieces of a fence

pal•i•sade /ˌpælәˈseɪd/ *noun, pl* **-sades**

1 [*count*] : a high fence made of pointed stakes that was used in the past to protect a building or area

2 ***palisades*** [*plural*] *US* : a line of steep cliffs especially along a river or ocean

[1]pall /ˈpɑːl/ *noun, pl* **palls** [*count*] *formal*

1 : something (such as a cloud of smoke) that covers a place and makes it dark — usually singular ▪ A *pall* of smoke hung over the village after the fire. — often used figuratively ▪ a *pall* of grief ▪ The sad news cast a *pall* on/over the school.

2 : a heavy cloth that is used for covering a coffin, hearse, or tomb

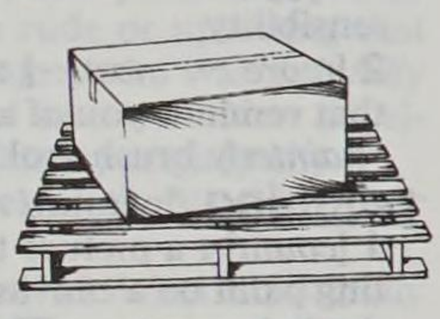
[2]pall *verb* **palls**; **palled**; **pall•ing** [*no obj*] *formal*

1 : to become dull : to no longer be enjoyable or interesting ▪ He found that his retirement hobbies *palled* after a couple of years.

2 : to lessen or fade ▪ His interest in politics has *palled* over the years. ▪ The excitement of the party quickly began to *pall*. [=*dwindle*]

pall•bear•er /ˈpɑːlˌberɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who helps to carry the coffin at a funeral

pal•let /ˈpælət/ *noun, pl* **-lets** [*count*]



pallet

1 : a wooden or metal platform that is used to support heavy things while they are being stored or moved ▪ The computers are packed in boxes and then stacked on *pallets* until they're ready to be shipped.

2 a : a cloth bag that is filled with straw and used as a bed **b** : a small, hard bed

pal•li•ate /ˈpæliˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to make the effects of (something, such as an illness) less painful, harmful, or harsh ▪ treatments that can *palliate* the painful symptoms of the disease

– **pal•li•a•tion** /ˌpæliˈeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *palliation* of pain

pal•li•a•tive /ˈpæliˌeɪtɪv, *Brit* ˈpæliətɪv/ *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*]

1 *medical* : something that reduces the effects or symptoms of a medical condition without curing it ▪ The disease has no cure, but a number of *palliatives* exist. ▪ Travel is like a *palliative* against depression for him.

2 *formal* : something that is intended to make a bad situation seem better but that does not really improve the situation ▪ symbolic *palliatives* for inner-city troubles

– **palliative** *adj* ▪ *palliative* care/treatment

pal•lid /ˈpælәd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal*

1 : very pale in a way that suggests poor health ▪ the patient's *pallid* face

2 : dull and uninteresting ▪ a *pallid* performance ▪ The movie is a *pallid* version of the classic novel.

pal•lor /ˈpælɚ/ *noun* [*singular*] *formal* : paleness especially of the face that is caused by illness ▪ The boy's sickly *pallor* concerned his mother even though he had no fever.

pal•ly /ˈpæli/ *adj, not used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *chiefly Brit, informal* : very friendly ▪ He got very *pally* [=*chummy*] with the manager. ▪ We've been *pally* for years.

[1]palm /ˈpɑːm/ *noun, pl* **palms** [*count*] : the inside part of the hand between the wrist and the fingers ▪ He placed a coin in the child's outstretched *palm*. ▪ The kitten was small enough to fit in the *palm* of my hand. ▪ He claimed that he could ***read my palm***. [=look at the lines on the palm of my hand and tell me what was going to happen to me in the future] — see picture at HAND

grease the palm of see [2]GREASE

have someone in the palm of your hand : to have control or influence over someone : to be able to control someone easily ▪ She *has* her boss *in the palm of her hand*.

– compare [2]PALM

[2]palm *noun, pl* **palms** [*count*]

1 a : a kind of tree that grows in tropical regions and has a straight, tall trunk and many large leaves at the top of the trunk — called also *palm tree* **b** : a bush or large plant that is related to the palm and can be grown indoors — see color picture on page C6

2 : the leaf of a palm especially when it is carried as a symbol of victory or in celebration of something ▪ People were waving *palms* in the streets.

– compare [1]PALM

[3]palm *verb* **palms**; **palmed**; **palm•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to hide (something) in the palm of your hand ▪ The store's owner had seen one of the girls *palm* a lipstick before heading for the door. ▪ To do the card trick, you have to learn to *palm* one of the cards.

2 a *basketball* : to hold (a basketball) in an illegal way for a moment while you are dribbling ▪ He was called for *palming* the ball. **b** *soccer* : to knock (the ball) away from the goal with your hands ▪ The kick was *palmed* away by the goalkeeper.

palm off [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1 *palm (something) off or palm off (something)*** **a :** to sell (something) for more than it is worth by being dishonest about it ▪ The antique dealer had tried to *palm* the painting *off* as an original. ▪ He'll *palm* [=*pawn*] the car *off* on/onto some unsuspecting fool if he can. **b :** to get someone to accept or do (something) ▪ He tried to *palm off* science fiction as truth. ▪ She's good at *palming off* her household chores on her little sister. **2 *palm yourself off as (someone)*** **:** to pretend to be (someone you are not) ▪ He *palmed* [=*passed*] *himself off as* a lawyer.

palm•ist•ry /ˈpɑːməstri/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** the art or activity of looking at the lines on the palms of people's hands and telling them what will happen to them in the future
– palm•ist /ˈpɑːmɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*]

palm oil *noun* [*noncount*] **:** oil that is obtained from the fruit of some palm trees and used in cooking and in making soap and other products

Palm Sunday *noun* [*noncount*] **:** the Christian holiday celebrated on the Sunday before Easter

palm•top /ˈpɑːmˌtɑːp/ *noun, pl* **-tops** [*count*] **:** a computer that is small enough to be held in the palm of your hand

palm tree *noun, pl* **~ trees** [*count*] **:** ²PALM 1a

pal•o•mi•no /ˌpæləˈmiːnoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-nos** [*count*] **:** a horse that is light golden or cream in color and that has a cream or white mane and tail

pal•pa•ble /ˈpælpəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* **:** obvious and noticeable ▪ I felt a *palpable* sense of relief. ▪ The attraction between them was *palpable*. ▪ There was a *palpable* excitement in the air as the town prepared for the festival.
– pal•pa•bly /ˈpælpəbli/ *adv* ▪ the *palpably* real danger

pal•pate /ˈpælˌpeɪt/ *verb* **-pates; -pat•ed; -pat•ing** [+ *obj*] *medical* **:** to examine (part of the body) by touching it ▪ The doctor *palpated* his ribs to see if there was any tenderness.
– pal•pa•tion /pælˈpeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

pal•pi•tate /ˈpælpəˌteɪt/ *verb* [*no obj*] *of the heart* **:** to beat quickly and strongly and often in a way that is not regular because of excitement, nervousness, etc. ▪ My heart began to *palpitate* when I was announced as the winner.
– pal•pi•ta•tion /ˌpælpəˈteɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *medical* — usually plural ▪ Symptoms include dizziness and (heart) *palpitations*. ▪ I was under so much stress that I developed *palpitations*. [=my heart began to palpitate]

¹pal•sy /ˈpɑːlzi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* **:** a medical condition that causes your body or part of your body to shake uncontrollably ▪ facial *palsy* — see also CEREBRAL PALSY
– pal•sied /ˈpɑːlzid/ *adj*

²palsy /ˈpælzi/ *adj* **palsi•er; -est** *informal* **:** PALSY-WALSY

palsy–walsy /ˌpælziˈwælzi/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *informal* **:** friendly in a way that is not proper or sincere ▪ I don't think the boss should be getting *palsy-walsy* with her employees.

pal•try /ˈpɑːltri/ *adj* **pal•tri•er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*] *formal*
1 : very small or too small in amount ▪ They're offering a *paltry* [=*meager*] salary for the position. ▪ Sales have increased by a *paltry* [=*measly*] two percent.
2 : having little meaning, importance, or worth ▪ a *paltry* excuse ▪ *paltry* work

pam•pas /ˈpæmpəz/ *noun*
the pampas **:** large, flat, grassy areas of land in South America ▪ cattle roaming *the pampas*

pamp•er /ˈpæmpɚ/ *verb* **-pers; -pered; -per•ing** [+ *obj*] **:** to treat (someone or something) very well **:** to give (someone or something) a lot of attention and care ▪ They really *pamper* their guests at that hotel. ▪ She *pampered* herself with a day at the spa. ▪ He was *pampered* all his life and doesn't know how to function in the real world.
– pampered *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ a *pampered* pet ▪ the *pampered* life of the wealthy

pam•phlet /ˈpæmflət/ *noun, pl* **-phlets** [*count*] **:** a small, thin book with no cover or only a paper cover that has information about a particular subject

pam•phle•teer /ˌpæmfləˈtɪɚ/ *noun, pl* **-teers** [*count*] **:** a person who writes pamphlets usually to support a cause or to criticize someone or something

¹pan /ˈpæn/ *noun, pl* **pans** [*count*]
1 a : a usually shallow and open metal container that has a handle and that is used for cooking or baking ▪ The rice is in a *pan* on the stove. ▪ Spread the batter evenly in the *pan* [=(*Brit*) *tin*] and bake for 40 minutes. ▪ a cake/loaf/roasting *pan* — see also FRYING PAN, SAUCEPAN **b :** a container that is like a cooking pan that is used for holding something — see also BEDPAN, DUSTPAN
2 *Brit* **:** ¹BOWL 2a ▪ a toilet *pan*
3 : STEEL DRUM
down the pan *Brit, informal* **1** — used to describe something that is being wasted or lost ▪ It's just money *down the pan*. [=(*US*) *down the drain*] ▪ All my hard work ***went down the pan***. **2** — used to describe something that is getting much worse ▪ The business is ***going down the pan***. [=(*US*) *going down the drain*]
flash in the pan see ²FLASH

²pan *verb* **pans; panned; pan•ning** **:** to move (a movie, video, or television camera) across a scene or along with someone or something that is moving [+ *obj*] He *panned* the camera over the seats of the stadium. ▪ The camera *panned* the seats of the stadium. [*no obj*] The director/camera *panned* past the pile of shoes to the bare feet of the playing children.
— compare ³PAN

³pan *verb* **pans; panned; pan•ning**
1 [+ *obj*] *informal* **:** to criticize (a book, movie, play, etc.) severely ▪ The newspaper's movie critic *panned* the film. — often used as *(be) panned* ▪ The book *was panned* by the critics.
2 : to wash pieces of earth or stones with water in a special kind of pan in order to find pieces of gold or other metals [*no obj*] — usually + *for* ▪ The gold mine is no longer in use, but visitors to the mine can still *pan for* gold. [+ *obj*] We heard reports of people *panning* gold upriver.
pan out [*phrasal verb*] **1 :** to develop or happen ▪ We'll have to see how things *pan out*. [=*turn out*] **2 :** to have the end or result that you want **:** to succeed or turn out well ▪ If things don't *pan out* [=*work out*] here, I'll move back to the city. ▪ Her plans never *panned out*. ▪ He applied for a number of jobs and is hoping that one of them will *pan out*. [=hoping that he will get one of the jobs]
– compare ²PAN

pan- *prefix*
1 : all or completely ▪ *pan*orama
2 : involving all of a specified group ▪ *Pan*-American ▪ *pan*demic

pan•a•cea /ˌpænəˈsiːjə/ *noun, pl* **-ce•as** [*count*] *somewhat formal* **:** something that will make everything about a situation better ▪ The law will improve the lives of local farmers, but it is no *panacea*. ▪ An increase in tuition won't be a *panacea* [=*cure-all*] for the college's financial problems.

pa•nache /pəˈnæʃ/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** lots of energy and style ▪ She played the role of hostess with great *panache*.

pan•a•ma hat *or* **Pan•a•ma hat** /ˈpænəˌmɑː-/ *noun, pl* **~ hats** [*count*] **:** a light hat with a broad brim that is made from straw — called also *panama*; see picture at HAT

Pan–Amer•i•can /ˌpænəˈmerɪkən/ *adj* **:** of, relating to, or involving the countries of North and South America ▪ the *Pan-American* highway

pan•cake /ˈpænˌkeɪk/ *noun, pl* **-cakes** [*count*]
1 : a thin, flat, round cake that is made by cooking batter on both sides in a frying pan or on a hot surface (called a griddle) ▪ We had blueberry *pancakes* and sausage for breakfast. — see also POTATO PANCAKE
2 : thick makeup worn especially by actors ▪ She wore sequins, false eyelashes, and *pancake* onstage. — called also *pancake makeup*
(as) flat as a pancake see ¹FLAT

Pancake Day *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* **:** SHROVE TUESDAY

pan•cet•ta /pænˈʧɛtə/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** a kind of Italian bacon

pan•cre•as /ˈpæŋkrijəs/ *noun, pl* **-as•es** [*count*] **:** a large gland of the body that is near the stomach and that produces insulin and other substances that help the body digest food — see picture at HUMAN
– pan•cre•at•ic /ˌpæŋkriˈætɪk/ *adj* ▪ *pancreatic* cancer/tissue

pan•da /ˈpændə/ *noun, pl* **-das** [*count*]
1 : a large animal with black-and-white fur that looks like a bear, lives in China, and eats mostly bamboo shoots — called also *giant panda, panda bear*
2 : RED PANDA



panda

panda car *noun, pl* **~ cars** [*count*] *Brit, informal* **:** a small police car

P

pan·dem·ic /pæn'dɛmɪk/ *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] *medical* : an occurrence in which a disease spreads very quickly and affects a large number of people over a wide area or throughout the world ▪ The 1918 flu *pandemic* claimed millions of lives. ▪ the AIDS *pandemic*
– **pandemic** *adj* ▪ a *pandemic* virus/disease ▪ *pandemic* malaria

pan·de·mo·ni·um /ˌpændə'moʊnijəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a situation in which a crowd of people act in a wild, uncontrolled, or violent way because they are afraid, excited, or confused ▪ The announcement that the concert was canceled was met with *pandemonium*. ▪ *Pandemonium* erupted in the courtroom when the verdict was announced.

pan·der /'pændə/ *verb* **-ders**; **-dered**; **-der·ing** [*no obj*] *disapproving* : to do or provide what someone wants or demands even though it is not proper, good, or reasonable — usually + *to* ▪ The film *panders to* the popular taste for violence in entertainment.

Pan·do·ra's box /pæn'dorəz-/ *noun* [*singular*] : a source of many troubles : something that will lead to many problems ▪ Her parents are understandably afraid of ***opening a Pandora's box*** [=causing many worries and problems] if they buy her a car.

pane /'peɪn/ *noun, pl* **panes** [*count*] : a sheet of glass in a window or door ▪ a *pane* of glass — see picture at WINDOW

pan·e·gy·ric /ˌpænə'ʤɪrɪk/ *noun, pl* **-rics** [*count*] *formal* : something (such as a speech or a piece of writing) that praises someone or something — often + *to* ▪ The film is a *panegyric to* old-fashioned virtues.

[1]pan·el /'pænl̩/ *noun, pl* **-els** [*count*]
1 a : a group of people who answer questions, give advice or opinions about something, or take part in a discussion for an audience ▪ The university is hosting a *panel* on free speech. ▪ Tonight's show features a *panel* of famous chefs. ▪ Three of the members ***on the panel*** are doctors. ▪ a ***panel discussion*** on (the topic of) education **b** : a group of people with special knowledge, skill, or experience who give advice or make decisions ▪ The advisory *panel* has recommended that the drug be approved. ▪ A *panel* of judges selected the book for this year's award. **c** *US* : a group of people who are chosen to be jurors : JURY — called also *jury panel*
2 a : one of the flat pieces that make up a door, wall, or ceiling ▪ The room was visible through the door's glass *panel*. ▪ One of the ceiling *panels* needs to be replaced. **b** : a piece of cloth that makes up part of something sewn together ▪ Each of the skirt's five *panels* is a different color. ▪ Sew the two *panels* together to form a tablecloth. **c** : a piece of metal or plastic that forms part of the outside surface of a vehicle ▪ Aside from a dent in one of the side *panels* the car is in good shape.
3 : a flat surface where the controls of a vehicle, machine, etc., are located ▪ the control *panel* ▪ The last number you called is listed on the phone's display *panel*. — see also INSTRUMENT PANEL
– see also SOLAR PANEL

[2]panel *verb* **-els**; *US* **-eled** *or Brit* **-elled**; *US* **-el·ing** *or Brit* **-el·ling** [+ *obj*] : to cover (a wall, ceiling, etc.) with flat pieces of wood, glass, etc. ▪ We *paneled* the living room with oak. ▪ The walls were *paneled* in oak.
– **paneled** *adj* ▪ The bedroom had dark *paneled* walls and large windows. ▪ a heavy *paneled* door

paneling (*US*) *or Brit* **panelling** *noun* [*noncount*] : square or rectangular pieces of wood that are joined together to cover a wall or ceiling ▪ The dining room had dark *paneling*.

pan·el·ist /'pænl̩ɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who is a part of a group of people who answer questions, give advice or opinions, etc. : a person who is a member of a panel

panel truck *noun, pl* ~ **trucks** [*count*] *US* : a small truck or van with a fully enclosed body that is often used to deliver goods

pan·fry /'pænˌfraɪ/ *verb* **-fries**; **-fried**; **-fry·ing** [+ *obj*] : to cook (food) in a frying pan with a small amount of fat ▪ *pan-fried* fish

pang /'pæŋ/ *noun, pl* **pangs** [*count*] : a sudden, strong feeling of physical or emotional pain ▪ hunger *pangs* — often + *of* ▪ She felt a *pang of* guilt for not offering to help.

[1]pan·han·dle /'pænˌhændl̩/ *noun, pl* **-handles** [*count*] *US* : a part of a land area (such as a state) that is narrow and sticks out from a larger area ▪ the *panhandle* of Florida = the Florida *Panhandle* ▪ The Texas *Panhandle* is the northernmost part of the state. ▪ the Oklahoma *Panhandle*

[2]panhandle *verb* **-handles**; **-han·dled**; **-han·dling** [*no obj*] *chiefly US* : to ask strangers for money in a public place (such as on a sidewalk) ▪ He *panhandled* for his bus fare. ▪ There is a law against *panhandling* in the subway.
– **pan·han·dler** /'pænˌhændlə/ *noun, pl* **-dlers** [*count*]

[1]pan·ic /'pænɪk/ *noun, pl* **-ics**
1 : a state or feeling of extreme fear that makes someone unable to act or think normally [*singular*] He was in a *panic* when he realized how late he was. ▪ There's no reason to get into a *panic*. [*noncount*] The villagers fled in *panic* from the approaching army. ▪ The crowd was in a ***state of panic***. ▪ She has ***panic attacks*** whenever she has to speak in public. ▪ (*medical*) He was diagnosed with ***panic disorder***. [=an illness that causes someone to have frequent panic attacks]
2 [*count*] : a situation that causes many people to become afraid and to rush to do something — usually singular ▪ The recent *panic* over/about unsafe drinking water resulted in a shortage of bottled water in the stores.
– **pan·icky** /'pænɪki/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ He got *panicky* when he realized how late he was.

[2]panic *verb* **-ics**; **-icked**; **-ick·ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to be overcome with extreme fear : to be affected by panic ▪ If something goes wrong, don't *panic*.
2 [+ *obj*] : to cause (a person or animal) to feel extreme fear : to cause (a person or animal) to feel panic ▪ The deer, *panicked* by the headlights, ran in front of the car.

panic button *noun, pl* ~ **-tons** [*count*] : a button in a bank, store, etc., that a person can press to call for help during an emergency (such as a robbery)
push/hit/press the panic button : to become extremely afraid or nervous when something bad happens or might happen ▪ Medical officials says there is no need to *push the panic button* over two isolated cases of the disease.

pan·ic–strick·en /'pænɪkˌstrɪkən/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : too frightened to think or act normally : overcome with panic ▪ The *panic-stricken* horses crashed through the door of the burning barn.

pan·nier /'pænjə/ *noun, pl* **-niers** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : SADDLEBAG

pan·o·ply /'pænəpli/ *noun, pl* **-plies** [*count*] *formal* : a group or collection that is impressive because it is so big or because it includes so many different kinds of people or things — usually singular ▪ A *panoply* of drugs [=a wide array of drugs] is now available to treat depression. ▪ the full *panoply* of American literature

pan·ora·ma /ˌpænə'ræmə, *Brit* ˌpænə'rɑːmə/ *noun, pl* **-mas** [*count*]
1 : a full and wide view of something — usually singular ▪ You can see a *panorama* of the entire bay from here.
2 a : a way of showing or telling something that includes a lot of information and covers many topics : a thorough presentation of a subject — usually singular ▪ The book presents a *panorama* [=*overview*] of immigration in America. **b** : a group that includes many different people or things : a wide selection — usually singular ▪ a *panorama* of cultures
– **pan·o·ram·ic** /ˌpænə'ræmɪk/ *adj* ▪ a *panoramic* view of the city ▪ a *panoramic* photograph of the Grand Canyon

pan·pipe /'pænˌpaɪp/ *noun, pl* **-pipes** [*count*] : a musical instrument that is made up of several short pipes of different lengths and that is played by blowing air across the top ▪ play the *panpipe* — often plural especially in British English ▪ play the *panpipes*

pan·sy /'pænzi/ *noun, pl* **-sies** [*count*]
1 : a small plant that is grown in gardens and has colorful flowers with five petals; *also* : its flower — see color picture on page C6
2 *informal* + *old-fashioned* **a** : a weak man or boy who is easily frightened **b** *offensive* : a male homosexual

pant /'pænt/ *verb* **pants**; **pant·ed**; **pant·ing**
1 a [*no obj*] : to breathe hard and quickly ▪ Dogs *pant* when they are hot. ▪ The hikers were *panting* by the time they reached the top of the hill. ▪ They *panted* up the hill. [=they were panting as they went up the hill] ▪ The patient was ***panting for breath*** [=breathing heavily] — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The engine was *panting* noisily as it stood on the tracks. ▪ The car *panted* up the hill. **b** [+ *obj*] : to say (something) while you are breathing quickly and heavily ▪ "I've run far enough," he *panted*. [=*gasped*]
2 [*no obj*] *informal* : to wish for or want something very eagerly — often + *for* or *after* ▪ Fans are *panting for* the writer's next book. ▪ We knew she was *panting after* the starring role in the play. [=she wanted the starring role very much] — of-

ten followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ The crowd was *panting to hear* the outcome.

– see also PANTS

pan•ta•loons /ˌpæntəˈluːnz/ *noun* [*plural*] *old-fashioned* : pants with wide legs that become narrow at the bottom ▪ a clown in brightly colored *pantaloons*

pan•the•on /ˈpænθiˌɑːn/ *noun, pl* **-ons** [*count*]

1 : the gods of a particular country or group of people ▪ the Greek and Roman *pantheons*

2 *somewhat formal* : a group of people who are famous or important — often + *of* ▪ He occupies a place in the *pantheon of* great American writers. [=he is one of the great American writers]

3 : a temple that is built to honor all the gods of a particular country or group of people

pan•ther /ˈpænθɚ/ *noun, pl* **pan•thers** *also* **panther** [*count*]

1 : a large, black wildcat

2 *US* : COUGAR

pant•ies /ˈpæntiz/ *noun* [*plural*] *chiefly US* : a piece of girl's or woman's underwear that covers the area between the waist and the top of the legs — called also (*Brit*) *knickers*; see color picture on page C13

pan•to /ˈpæntoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-tos** [*count, noncount*] *Brit, informal* : [1]PANTOMIME ▪ a Christmas *panto*

[1]pan•to•mime /ˈpæntəˌmaɪm/ *noun, pl* **-mimes**

1 a [*noncount*] : a way of expressing information or telling a story without words by using body movements and facial expressions ▪ In the game of charades, one player uses *pantomime* to represent a word or phrase that the other players have to try to guess. **b** : a performance in which a story is told without words by using body movements and facial expressions [*count*] We saw *pantomimes* at the fair. [*noncount*] a ballet that is part dance and part *pantomime*

2 [*count*] *Brit* : a play for children performed during the Christmas season that is based on a fairy tale and includes singing and dancing

[2]pantomime *verb* **-mimes; -mimed; -mim•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make the movements of someone who is doing something without actually doing it : MIME ▪ He *pantomimed* someone talking on the phone.

pan•try /ˈpæntri/ *noun, pl* **-tries** [*count*] : a small room in a house in which food is stored

pants /ˈpænts/ *noun* [*plural*]

1 *chiefly US* : a piece of clothing that covers your body from the waist to the ankle and has a separate part for each leg ▪ a pair of *pants* [=*trousers*] ▪ short/long *pants* ▪ a *pants* leg — sometimes used in the singular form ***pant*** especially before another noun and in clothing catalogs ▪ a *pant* leg ▪ a classic khaki *pant* = (more commonly) classic khaki *pants* — see color picture on page C14

2 *Brit* : UNDERPANTS 1

ants in your pants see ANT

by the seat of your pants see [1]SEAT

keep your pants on *US, informal* — used to tell someone to be patient ▪ "Aren't you ready to leave yet?" *"Keep your pants on!* I'll be ready in a minute."

the pants off *informal* — used for emphasis after words like *charm, scare, frighten, bore*, and *beat* ▪ He can *charm the pants off* anybody. [=he is very charming] ▪ She *scared the pants off* us [=she scared us very badly] when she phoned at 3 a.m. ▪ The meeting *bored the pants off* me. ▪ The home team *beat the pants off* the visiting team last night.

wear the pants see [1]WEAR

with your pants down *US, informal* : in an embarrassing or unprepared position ▪ The clinic now maintains an adequate supply of vaccine so that it won't be ***caught with its pants down*** if there is a flu outbreak two years in a row.

pant•suit /ˈpæntˌsuːt/ *noun, pl* **-suits** [*count*] *US* : a woman's suit consisting of a jacket and pants that are made of the same material — called also (*US*) *pants suit*, (*Brit*) *trouser suit*

panty•hose /ˈpæntiˌhoʊz/ *noun* [*plural*] *US* : clothing for women made of thin material that fits closely over the feet and legs and goes up to the waist ▪ a pair of *pantyhose* — called also (*Brit*) *tights*; see color picture on page C13

panty line *noun, pl* ~ **lines** [*count*] : the edge of a woman's panties especially when it can be seen through her clothing as a long, thin line ▪ a visible *panty line*

panty liner *noun, pl* ~ **ers** [*count*] : a very thin pad that is worn inside a woman's panties in order to protect them from stains

pap /ˈpæp/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : books, television programs, etc., that are worthless or dull ▪ That show is better than most of the *pap* on TV. ▪ Why do you read that *pap*?

pa•pa *also US* **pop•pa** /ˈpɑːpə/ *noun, pl* **-pas** [*count*] *informal* + *somewhat old-fashioned* : a person's father — used especially by young children ▪ Where's *papa*? ▪ Good morning, *Papa*! — compare MAMA

pa•pa•cy /ˈpeɪpəsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies**

1 ***the papacy*** : the office or position of the pope ▪ He was selected by the cardinals for *the papacy*.

2 [*count*] : the time when a particular pope is in power — usually singular ▪ during the *papacy* of John Paul II

pa•pal /ˈpeɪpəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to the pope or the government of the Roman Catholic Church ▪ a *papal* decree/visit ▪ *papal* authority

papal infallibility *noun* [*noncount*] : the Roman Catholic belief that the pope cannot be wrong when using his official position of power to give instructions about Christian faith or morals

pa•pa•raz•zo /ˌpɑːpəˈrɑːtsoʊ, *Brit* ˌpæpəˈrætsoʊ/ *noun, pl* **pa•pa•raz•zi** /ˌpɑːpəˈrɑːtsi, *Brit* ˌpæpəˈrætsi/ [*count*] : a photographer who follows famous people in order to take their pictures and then sells the pictures to newspapers or magazines — usually plural ▪ a movie star surrounded by a swarm of *paparazzi*

pa•pa•ya /pəˈpajə/ *noun, pl* **-yas** [*count, noncount*] : a yellowish-green fruit with black seeds that grows on a tropical tree



papaya

[1]pa•per /ˈpeɪpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-pers**

1 [*noncount*] : the material that is used in the form of thin sheets for writing or printing on, wrapping things, etc. ▪ We'll need pens, glue, and some *paper*. ▪ Be sure to print/write the letter on good *paper*. ▪ She wrapped the present in pretty *paper* [=*wrapping paper*] and put a bow on the top. ▪ a sheet of *paper* ▪ He scribbled the number on a scrap of *paper*. ▪ a crumpled/torn piece of *paper* ▪ a pad of *paper* — see also GRAPH PAPER, SCRAP PAPER, SILVER PAPER, TISSUE PAPER, TOILET PAPER, WAX PAPER, WRITING PAPER

2 a [*count*] : a sheet of paper with information written or printed on it — usually plural ▪ A pile of *papers* blew off the desk. ▪ She has possession of the writer's personal *papers*. **b** ***papers*** [*plural*] : official documents that give information about something or that are used as proof of something ▪ The border guards asked to see my *papers*. ▪ divorce *papers* ▪ legal *papers* — see also WALKING PAPERS, WORKING PAPERS

3 [*count*] **a** : a piece of writing usually on an academic or official subject ▪ They published a landmark *paper* in 1995. ▪ She presented a *paper* [=she delivered a speech about a written work] at the conference. ▪ a scientific *paper* ▪ a government *paper* — see also POSITION PAPER **b** *US* : a piece of writing that is done for a course at a school ▪ He handed in a *paper* [=*essay*] about the nesting habits of birds. ▪ The teacher was busy grading *papers*. — see also TERM PAPER **c** *Brit* : an exam or test in which students write answers to written questions ▪ She did well on her history *paper*.

4 [*count*] : NEWSPAPER ▪ a news story in the local *paper* ▪ the morning *paper* ▪ Did you hear what the *papers* are saying/reporting? ▪ It was the sort of thing you read about in the *papers*. — see also FUNNY PAPERS

5 [*count, noncount*] : paper that is used to cover or decorate the walls of a room : WALLPAPER ▪ She picked a light green *paper* for the living room.

on paper **1** : in a written form : in writing ▪ He finally put his ideas *on paper*. [=he finally wrote down his ideas] **2** — used to say that something seems to be true or likely when you read or hear what is known about it but that the real situation may be different ▪ The other team looked better *on paper*, but we beat them anyway. ▪ *On paper*, the procedure is relatively simple.

push paper(s) *informal* : to do boring or unimportant work in an office ▪ She wanted to be a pilot, but instead she ended up *pushing papers* in a government job. — see also PAPER PUSHER

put/set pen to paper see [1]PEN

[2]paper *adj*

1 : made of paper ▪ a *paper* bag ▪ *paper* cups/plates [=cups/plates made of thick paper and usually designed to be used

once and then thrown away] ▪ The cups/plates were *paper*.

2 *always used before a noun* : of or relating to paper ▪ *paper* manufacturers ▪ a *paper* mill [=a mill/factory where paper is made]

3 *always used before a noun* : existing or shown on paper or in documents but not real ▪ Their accounts showed lots of *paper* profits, but they went bankrupt anyway. ▪ *paper* losses

[3]paper *verb* **-pers; -pered; -per•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cover (something, such as a wall) with paper ▪ *paper* [=*wallpaper*] the bedroom

paper over [*phrasal verb*] ***paper (something) over*** *or* ***paper over (something)*** : to hide (something bad, such as differences or problems) ▪ They *papered over* their disagreements [=they pretended that they did not disagree] in order to convince the investors to put up the money. ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) We have to acknowledge these problems. We can't just ***paper over the cracks***

pa•per•back /'peɪpɚˌbæk/ *noun, pl* **-backs** : a book that has a thick paper cover [*count*] The store sells both *paperbacks* and hardcovers. [*noncount*] The book is sold only ***in paperback*** — compare HARDCOVER, SOFTCOVER

– paperback *adj* ▪ a *paperback* novel/edition

pa•per•boy /'peɪpɚˌbɔɪ/ *noun, pl* **-boys** [*count*] : a boy who delivers newspapers to people's houses

paper clip *noun, pl* ~ **clips** [*count*] : a piece of wire bent into flat loops that is used to hold sheets of paper together — see picture at OFFICE

pa•per•girl /'peɪpɚˌgɚl/ *noun, pl* **-girls** [*count*] : a girl who delivers newspapers to people's houses

pa•per•hang•er /'peɪpɚˌhæŋɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *US* : a person whose job is to put up wallpaper

paper knife *noun, pl* ~ **knives** [*count*] *Brit* : LETTER OPENER

pa•per•less /'peɪpɚləs/ *adj* : using computers instead of paper to record or exchange information ▪ a *paperless* office ▪ a *paperless* business transaction

paper money *noun* [*noncount*] : money that is made of paper : money in the form of bills instead of coins

paper pusher *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* + *disapproving* : someone who does boring or unimportant work in an office — called also (*US*) *pencil pusher*, (*Brit*) *pen pusher*

pa•per–thin /'peɪpɚˌθɪn/ *adj* : very thin ▪ *paper-thin* slices of roast beef ▪ The walls are *paper-thin*.

paper tiger *noun, pl* ~ **-gers** [*count*] : someone or something that appears powerful or dangerous but is not ▪ The new laws are just *paper tigers* without any method of enforcement.

paper towel *noun, pl* ~ **-els** : a sheet of soft and thick paper that can soak up liquid and that is used for drying your hands, cleaning up spills, etc. [*count*] She used a *paper towel* to wipe off the counter. ▪ (*US*) a roll of *paper towels* [=(*Brit*) a roll of kitchen paper] [*noncount*] (*US*) a piece of *paper towel* [=(*Brit*) *kitchen paper*]

paper trail *noun, pl* ~ **trails** [*count*] *chiefly US* : documents (such as financial records or memos) that make it possible for someone at a later time to know what was done, discussed, etc. ▪ They covered up the fraud and were careful not to leave a *paper trail*.

pa•per•weight /'peɪpɚˌweɪt/ *noun, pl* **-weights** [*count*] : a small, heavy object that is used to hold down loose papers on a surface

pa•per•work /'peɪpɚˌwɚk/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : routine work that involves writing letters, reports, etc. ▪ He spent most of the morning doing (his) *paperwork*. ▪ administrative *paperwork*

2 : the official documents that are needed for something to happen or be done ▪ She failed to file the *paperwork* on time. ▪ The lawyer had us fill in the *paperwork* for the mortgage.

pa•pery /'peɪpəri/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very thin or dry like paper ▪ a berry with *papery* skin ▪ the *papery* wing of a moth

pa•pier–mâ•ché /ˌpeɪpɚməˈʃeɪ, *Brit* ˌpæpjeɪˈmæʃeɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a material that is made of paper mixed with water, glue, and other substances and that hardens as it dries ▪ She made a mask out of *papier-mâché*. — often used before another noun ▪ a large *papier-mâché* sculpture

pap•py /'pæpi/ *noun, pl* **-pies** [*count*] *US, informal* : a person's father : PAPA — used chiefly in the southern and east central part of the U.S.

pa•pri•ka /pəˈpri:kə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a red powder that is made from sweet peppers and used as a spice for food ▪ tomato sauce made with garlic, *paprika*, and pepper

Pap smear /'pæpˌsmiɚ/ *noun, pl* ~ **smears** [*count*] *US, medical* : a test for the early detection of cancer of the uterus and cervix ▪ She has a *Pap smear* done every year. — called also (*US*) *Pap test*, (*Brit*) *cervical smear*, (*Brit*) *smear test*

pa•py•rus /pəˈpaɪrəs/ *noun, pl* **pa•py•ri** /pəˈpaɪri/ *or* **pa•py•rus•es**

1 [*noncount*] : a tall plant that is like grass and that grows in marshes especially in Egypt

2 a [*noncount*] : paper made from papyrus that was used in ancient times ▪ an ancient text written on *papyrus* ▪ a roll/scroll of *papyrus* ▪ a *papyrus* scroll **b** [*count*] : a piece of paper made from papyrus that has writing on it ▪ He discovered a *papyrus* in the ruins. per made from papyrus that has writing on it ▪ He discovered a *papyrus* in the ruins.

par /'pɑɚ/ *noun, pl* **pars**

1 : the number of strokes a good golfer is expected to take to finish a golf hole or course [*noncount*] He made/scored *par* on the ninth hole. ▪ She finished the 18th hole three strokes under/over *par*. ▪ The 18th hole is a *par* 5. [=par for the 18th hole is five strokes] ▪ a *par*-5 hole [*count*] He made/scored a *par* on the ninth hole. ▪ She made/scored nine *pars* in a row.

2 [*noncount*] *business* : the value of a stock or bond that is printed on the paper of the stock or bond itself or that is decided upon when the stock or bond is issued ▪ That stock is trading (at) 16 percent above/below *par*. — called also *par value*

above par : better than normal or expected : very good ▪ The performance was *above par*.

below par *also* ***under par*** : worse than expected : not very good : BAD ▪ Our meal was *below par*. [=*subpar*] ▪ I'm feeling a little *below par*.

on (a) par with : at the same level or standard as (someone or something else) ▪ The new version of the software is *on a par with* the old one. [=is as good as the old one] ▪ His new book is *on par with* his best sellers.

par for the course *disapproving* : normal or typical : not unusual or unexpected ▪ His son's bad behavior is just *par for the course*. [=his son often/always behaves badly] ▪ It's *par for the course* that she's late to the meeting.

up to par : good enough : as good as expected or wanted ▪ She was checking to see if his work was *up to par*. — usually used in negative statements ▪ His course work is *not up to par*. [=not as good as it should be] ▪ She's not feeling *up to par*. [=she is not feeling well; her health is not good]

para. *abbr* paragraph

[1]para- *prefix*

1 : beyond or outside of ▪ *para*normal

2 : helping highly trained professionals by doing tasks that require less training ▪ *para*medic ▪ *para*legal

[2]para- *combining form* : parachute ▪ *para*trooper ▪ *para*sailing

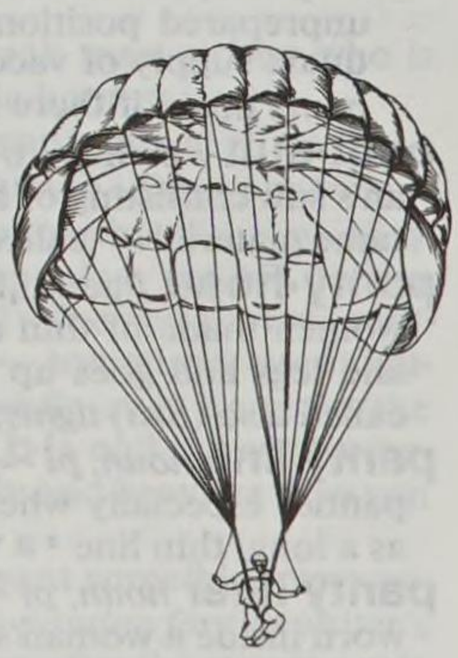
par•a•ble /'perəbəl/ *noun, pl* **-ables** [*count*] : a short story that teaches a moral or spiritual lesson ▪ He told the children a *parable* about the importance of forgiveness.; *especially* : one of the stories told by Jesus Christ and recorded in the Bible ▪ the *parable* of the Good Samaritan

pa•rab•o•la /pəˈræbələ/ *noun, pl* **-las** [*count*] *technical* : a curve that is shaped like the path of something that is thrown forward and high in the air and falls back to the ground — sometimes used figuratively ▪ a biography that follows the *parabola* of the actress's career [=a biography that shows the rise and fall of the actress's career]

– par•a•bol•ic /ˌperəˈbɑ:lɪk/ *adj* ▪ a *parabolic* curve

para•cet•a•mol /ˌperəˈsi:təˌmɑ:l/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : ACETOMINOPHEN

[1]para•chute /'perəˌʃu:t/ *noun, pl* **-chutes** [*count*] : a piece of equipment usually made of cloth that is fastened to people or things and that allows them to fall slowly and land safely after they have jumped or been dropped from an aircraft ▪ The pilot was wearing a *parachute*. ▪ The supplies were dropped by *parachute*. — often used before another noun ▪ a *parachute* jump/drop — see also GOLDEN PARACHUTE



parachute

[2]parachute *verb, always followed*

P

by an adverb or preposition **-chutes**; **-chut•ed**; **-chut•ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to jump from an aircraft using a parachute • The soldiers *parachuted* in and quickly hid their gear. • New troops *parachuted* into enemy territory.
2 [+ *obj*] : to drop (someone or something) from an aircraft using a parachute • We will *parachute* supplies in after you arrive. • New troops were *parachuted* into enemy territory.

para•chut•ist /ˈperəˌʃu:tɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who jumps from an aircraft and uses a parachute to land

[1]pa•rade /pəˈreɪd/ *noun, pl* **-rades** [*count*]
1 : a public celebration of a special day or event that usually includes many people and groups moving down a street by marching or riding in cars or on special vehicles (called floats) • the annual Thanksgiving Day *parade* • After the team won the championship, the city threw/had a *parade* for them. • The town will put on a *parade*. • The marching band lined up for the homecoming *parade*. • the *parade* route
2 : a military ceremony in which soldiers march or stand in lines so that they can be examined by officers or other important people
3 : a long series of people or things that come one after the other — usually singular; usually + *of* • We had a *parade of* visitors this morning. [=we had many visitors this morning] • The prosecution called a *parade of* witnesses to the stand. • We watched a *parade of* cars go by our house on the way to the stadium for the game.
4 *Brit* : a street with a row of small shops • a shopping *parade*
on parade **1** : shown or displayed especially in a way that attracts attention • Her new diamond engagement ring was *on parade* for all her friends to stare at. • Television executives learned that violent shows attract more viewers, and pretty soon it was violence *on parade* all day long. **2** : marching or standing in a military parade • The general carefully watched the soldiers *on parade*. • a military honor guard *on parade*
rain on someone's parade see [2]RAIN

[2]parade *verb* **-rades**; **-rad•ed**; **-rad•ing**
1 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to walk or march together in public especially as a way of celebrating or protesting something • The team and its fans *paraded* down the street. • Protesters *paraded* in front of City Hall.
2 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to walk in a way that attracts attention • The models *paraded* up and down the runway. • She *paraded* around on the beach in her bikini.
3 [+ *obj*] : to force (someone) to walk or march in public • The victors *paraded* the prisoners through the streets.
4 *of soldiers* : to march in lines in order to be examined by officers or other important people [*no obj*] The soldiers *paraded* past the generals. [+ *obj*] The soldiers were *paraded* past the generals.
5 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [+ *obj*] : to show or present (someone or something) proudly or in a way that attracts attention • They don't like having their personal problems *paraded* in print for everyone to see.
6 *disapproving* : to be falsely presented as something good — + *as* [*no obj*] The book is just propaganda *parading as* literature. [+ *obj*] — usually used as *(be) paraded* • lies *being paraded as* the truth

parade ground *noun, pl* ~ **grounds** [*count*] : a place where parades begin or happen • a military *parade ground* — often plural • Meet me at the *parade grounds* after the fireworks.

par•a•digm /ˈperəˌdaɪm/ *noun, pl* **-digms** [*count*] *formal*
1 : a model or pattern for something that may be copied • Her recent book provides us with a new *paradigm* for modern biography.
2 : a theory or a group of ideas about how something should be done, made, or thought about • the Freudian *paradigm* of psychoanalysis • a new study that challenges the current evolutionary *paradigm*
– **par•a•dig•mat•ic** /ˌperədɪgˈmætɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • a *paradigmatic* example

paradigm shift *noun, pl* ~ **shifts** [*count*] *formal* : an important change that happens when the usual way of thinking about or doing something is replaced by a new and different way • This discovery will bring about a *paradigm shift* in our understanding of evolution. [=will cause people to understand evolution in a completely new way]

par•a•dise /ˈperəˌdaɪs/ *noun, pl* **-dis•es**
1 a [*count*] : a very beautiful, pleasant, or peaceful place that seems to be perfect • a rural *paradise* • tropical *paradises* • Their marriage was very happy at first, but now there's ***trouble in paradise***. **b** [*singular*] : a place that is perfect for a particular activity or for a person who enjoys that activity • a marsh that is a birdwatcher's *paradise* • This shop is an antique collecting *paradise*! **c** [*noncount*] : a state of complete happiness • When I'm with you, I'm ***in paradise***. [=I'm very happy] — see also FOOL'S PARADISE
2 *or* ***Paradise*** [*noncount*] **a** : a place where in some religions good people are believed to go after they die : HEAVEN **b** : the place where Adam and Eve first lived according to the Bible : EDEN
– see also BIRD OF PARADISE

par•a•dox /ˈperəˌdɑ:ks/ *noun, pl* **-dox•es**
1 [*count*] **a** : something (such as a situation) that is made up of two opposite things and that seems impossible but is actually true or possible • It is a *paradox* that computers need maintenance so often, since they are meant to save people time. **b** : someone who does two things that seem to be opposite to each other or who has qualities that are opposite • As an actor, he's a *paradox*—he loves being in the public eye but also deeply values and protects his privacy.
2 a [*count*] : a statement that seems to say two opposite things but that may be true **b** [*noncount*] : the use of such statements in writing or speech • a novel full of *paradox*
– **par•a•dox•i•cal** /ˌperəˈdɑ:ksɪkəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • the *paradoxical* theory that global warming will lead to the next Ice Age – **par•a•dox•i•cal•ly** /ˌperəˈdɑ:ksɪkli/ *adv*

par•af•fin /ˈperəfən/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a soft, waxy substance that is usually made from petroleum or coal and is used in candles and other products — called also *paraffin wax*
2 *Brit* : KEROSENE • a *paraffin* lamp

para•glid•ing /ˈperəˌglaɪdɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a sport in which a person jumps from a high place (such as a cliff or an airplane) and uses a special kind of parachute to float down to the ground
– **para•glide** /ˈperəˌglaɪd/ *verb* **-glides**; **-glid•ed**; **-glid•ing** [*no obj*] • He *paraglided* down from the cliff. • She likes to ***go paragliding***. – **para•glid•er** /ˈperəˌglaɪdɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

par•a•gon /ˈperəˌgɑ:n, *Brit* ˈpærəgən/ *noun, pl* **-gons** [*count*] *formal* : a person or thing that is perfect or excellent in some way and should be considered a model or example to be copied • He's no moral *paragon*. — often + *of* • The company is a *paragon of* modern manufacturing techniques. • He is a ***paragon of virtue***. [=he is a very virtuous person]

para•graph /ˈperəˌgræf, *Brit* ˈpærəˌgrɑ:f/ *noun, pl* **-graphs** [*count*] : a part of a piece of writing that usually deals with one subject, that begins on a new line, and that is made up of one or more sentences • In the second *paragraph* from the bottom, you've misspelled "their" as "thier." • Please refer to section 2, *paragraph* 4 for the appropriate information. • The two introductory *paragraphs* were written by the editor.

par•a•keet /ˈperəˌki:t/ *noun, pl* **-keets** [*count*] : a small, brightly colored tropical bird that has a long tail and that is often kept as a pet

para•le•gal /ˈperəˌli:gəl/ *noun, pl* **-gals** [*count*] *US* : a person who is trained to help a lawyer by doing research, office work, etc.
– **para•le•gal** /ˌperəˈli:gəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* • *paralegal* studies

[1]par•al•lel /ˈperəˌlɛl/ *adj*
1 — used to describe lines, paths, etc., that are the same distance apart along their whole length and do not touch at any point • *parallel* train tracks • A square is made of two sets of *parallel* lines. • The corn is planted in *parallel* rows. • The lines are *parallel* to each other. • The row of trees is *parallel* with the road. — compare PERPENDICULAR
2 : very similar and often happening at the same time • the *parallel* careers of the two movie stars • These two sentences are *parallel* in structure. • Notice the *parallel* development/evolution of the two technologies.
3 *computers* : designed for a computer system in which very small pieces of information are sent over separate wires at the same time • a *parallel* cable/connection/port/printer — compare [1]SERIAL 4
– **parallel** *adv* • The sidewalk runs *parallel* to/with the street.

[2]parallel *noun, pl* **-lels**
1 a [*count*] : a way in which things are similar : a shared quality or characteristic • These myths have some striking/

obvious *parallels* with myths found in cultures around the world. ▪ There are many ***parallels between*** the stories. ▪ The essay ***draws parallels between*** the lives of the two presidents. [=describes ways in which the lives of the two presidents were similar] **b** [*noncount*] : something that is equal or similar — usually used in negative statements ▪ This period of growth has ***no parallel*** [=there has never been a similar period of growth] in the history of the region. ▪ a masterpiece ***without parallel*** [=better than all others] in the history of art ▪ As an insult, it was *without parallel*. [=worse or more effective than all others]

2 [*count*] : any one of the imaginary circles on the surface of the Earth that are parallel to the equator and that are shown as lines on maps ▪ Most of the United States is south of the 49th *parallel*. — compare MERIDIAN

in parallel (with) : at the same time and in a way that is related or connected ▪ Prices are rising *in parallel with* increasing fuel costs. ▪ The two systems work *in parallel*.

[3]parallel *verb* **-lels**; **-leled**; **-lel·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to be similar or equal to (something) ▪ Their test results *parallel* our own. ▪ Nothing *parallels* that experience. [=that experience is unlike any other experience; it is unique]

2 : to happen at the same time as (something) and in a way that is related or connected ▪ Rising prices *parallel* increasing fuel costs. ▪ Spending is *paralleled* by an increase in the number of loans given.

3 : to be parallel to (something) : to go or extend in the same direction as (something) ▪ The highway *parallels* the river.

parallel bars *noun* [*plural*] *sports* : a pair of long bars on posts that are parallel to each other and are used in gymnastics — compare UNEVEN BARS

par·al·lel·ism /ˈperəˌlɛˌlɪzəm/ *noun, pl* **-isms** *formal* : the fact of being similar in development or form [*noncount*] There is some degree of *parallelism* between the lives of the two women. [*count*] There is a certain *parallelism* in the development of the two technologies.

par·al·lel·o·gram /ˌperəˈlɛləˌgræm/ *noun, pl* **-grams** [*count*] *geometry* : a four-sided shape made up of two pairs of straight parallel lines that are equal in length ▪ Rectangles, squares, and rhombuses are all *parallelograms*.

parallel park *verb* ~ **parks**; ~ **parked**; ~ **park·ing** : to park a car, truck, etc., so that the long side of the vehicle is parallel to the side of the road [*no obj*] I still have to learn how to *parallel park*. [+ *obj*] *parallel park* a car

– **parallel parking** *noun* [*noncount*]

pa·ral·y·sis /pəˈræləsəs/ *noun*

1 *medical* : a condition in which you are unable to move or feel all or part of your body [*noncount*] The disease causes *paralysis*. ▪ *paralysis* of the legs ▪ partial/temporary *paralysis* [*singular*] The disease causes a *paralysis* of the legs.

2 *formal* : a state of being unable to function, act, or move [*noncount*] The whole country is in a state of *paralysis*. ▪ They are trying to end the political *paralysis* that has been gripping the country. [*singular*] a *paralysis* of fear [=an inability to function, act, or move that is caused by fear]

[1]par·a·lyt·ic /ˌperəˈlɪtɪk/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun, medical* : affected with or causing paralysis ▪ *paralytic* patients [=patients who are unable to move or feel all or part of their bodies] ▪ a *paralytic* drug/stroke/disease [=a drug/stroke/disease that causes paralysis]

2 *Brit, informal* : very drunk ▪ a group of *paralytic* drunks

[2]paralytic *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] *medical* : a person who is paralyzed ▪ treatment for *paralytics*

par·a·lyze (*US*) *or Brit* **par·a·lyse** /ˈperəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-lyz·es**; **-lyzed**; **-lyz·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (a person or animal) unable to move or feel all or part of the body ▪ The snake's venom *paralyzed* the mouse. ▪ The accident *paralyzed* him from the neck down. [=the accident caused him to lose the ability to move or feel his body below his neck]

2 : to make (someone or something) unable to function, act, or move ▪ The air strikes have *paralyzed* the city's transportation system. ▪ The company was *paralyzed* by debt.

– **paralyzed** *adj* ▪ The accident left him *paralyzed* from the neck down. ▪ I was practically *paralyzed* with fear/embarrassment. [=unable to function, act, or move because I was so afraid/embarrassed] – **paralyzing** *adj* ▪ the snake's *paralyzing* venom ▪ a *paralyzing* fear

para·med·ic /perəˈmɛdɪk/ *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] : a person whose job is to provide emergency medical care to sick or injured people who are being taken to a hospital ▪ She's training to be a *paramedic*.

– **paramedic** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *paramedic* training

pa·ram·e·ter /pəˈræmətɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a rule or limit that controls what something is or how something should be done — usually plural ▪ First we need to ***set/define the parameters*** of the project. ▪ The investigation stayed ***within the parameters*** set by the court.

[1]para·mil·i·tary /ˌperəˈmɪləˌteri, *Brit* ˌpærəˈmɪlətri/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to a group that is not an official army but that operates and is organized like an army ▪ *paramilitary* militias ▪ Government forces have been attacked by heavily armed *paramilitary* groups in several villages. ▪ *paramilitary* training ▪ a *paramilitary* police force

[2]paramilitary *noun, pl* **-tar·ies** [*count*] : a member of a paramilitary group — usually plural ▪ Forces encountered heavily armed *paramilitaries*.

par·a·mount /ˈperəˌmaʊnt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very important : of highest rank or importance ▪ Safety is of *paramount* importance. = Safety is *paramount*. ▪ Unemployment was the *paramount* [=*chief, main*] issue in the election.

par·amour /ˈperəˌmuɚ/ *noun, pl* **-amours** [*count*] *literary* : a person with whom someone is having a romantic or sexual relationship and especially a secret or improper relationship ▪ Her husband found a love letter from her *paramour*. [=*lover*]

para·noia /ˌperəˈnojə/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 *medical* : a serious mental illness that causes you to falsely believe that other people are trying to harm you ▪ She was diagnosed with delusional *paranoia*.

2 : an unreasonable feeling that people are trying to harm you, do not like you, etc. ▪ I had to admit that my fears were just *paranoia*.

[1]para·noid /ˈperəˌnoɪd/ *adj*

1 *medical* : of, relating to, or suffering from a mental illness that causes you to falsely believe that people are trying to harm you ▪ *paranoid* behavior/schizophrenia ▪ a *paranoid* mental patient

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing an unreasonable feeling that people are trying to harm you, do not like you, etc. : feeling or showing paranoia ▪ I guess I was just being *paranoid*. ▪ She's a little *paranoid* about her job. ▪ It's nothing more than a *paranoid* fantasy.

[2]paranoid *noun, pl* **-noids** [*count*] *medical* : a person who has paranoia ▪ a new treatment for *paranoids*

para·nor·mal /ˌperəˈnoɚməl/ *adj* : very strange and not able to be explained by what scientists know about nature and the world ▪ Some believe she had *paranormal* [=*supernatural*] powers. ▪ *paranormal* phenomena

the paranormal : strange events, abilities, etc., that cannot be explained by what is known about nature and the world ▪ I've always been fascinated by *the paranormal*.

par·a·pet /ˈperəpət/ *noun, pl* **-pets** [*count*] : a low wall at the edge of a platform, roof, or bridge ▪ The invaders fired arrows over the castle's *parapet*.

put/stick/raise your head above the parapet *Brit, informal* : to do or say something you think is important even though it may have bad results ▪ I'll *put my head above the parapet* to defend him.

par·a·pher·na·lia /ˌperəfəˈneɪljə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : objects that are used to do a particular activity : objects of a particular kind ▪ hockey *paraphernalia* [=*equipment*] ▪ Drug *paraphernalia* was found in his car.

[1]para·phrase /ˈperəˌfreɪz/ *verb* **-phras·es**; **-phrased**; **-phras·ing** : to say (something that someone else has said or written) using different words [+ *obj*] He *paraphrased* the quote. ▪ She frequently *paraphrases* (the words of) famous authors in her lectures. [*no obj*] I'm *paraphrasing*, but he did say something like that.

[2]paraphrase *noun, pl* **-phrases** [*count*] : a statement that says something that another person has said or written in a different way ▪ This is just a *paraphrase* of what he said, not an exact quote.

para·ple·gia /ˌperəˈpliːʤijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a condition in which you are permanently unable to move or feel your legs and the lower half of your body because of injury or illness

para·ple·gic /ˌperəˈpliːʤɪk/ *noun, pl* **-gics** [*count*] *medical* : a person who is permanently unable to move or feel the legs or lower half of the body because of injury or illness ▪ Although she is a *paraplegic*, she is an accomplished athlete. — compare QUADRIPLEGIC

– **paraplegic** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *paraplegic* war veteran

para•pro•fes•sion•al /ˌperəprəˈfɛʃənl̩/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] *US* : a person whose job is to help a professional person (such as a teacher) ▪ There is at least one *paraprofessional* in each classroom.

– **paraprofessional** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *paraprofessional* training

para•psy•chol•o•gy /ˌperəˌsaɪˈkɑːlədʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the scientific study of events that cannot be explained by what scientists know about nature and the world

para•sail•ing /ˈperəˌseɪlɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a sport or activity in which you are pulled behind a motorboat while wearing a parachute so that you sail through the air ▪ They went *parasailing* while they were on vacation.

par•a•site /ˈperəˌsaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-sites** [*count*]

1 : an animal or plant that lives in or on another animal or plant and gets food or protection from it ▪ Many diseases are caused by *parasites*. — compare ¹HOST 3

2 *disapproving* : a person or thing that takes something from someone or something else and does not do anything to earn it or deserve it ▪ She's a *parasite* who only stays with him for the money. ▪ These new companies are *parasites* feeding off the success of those who spent the last decade establishing the industry.

par•a•sit•ic /ˌperəˈsɪtɪk/ *adj*

1 *of an animal or plant* : living in or on another animal or plant and getting food or protection from it ▪ *parasitic* plants/mites/worms

2 *always used before a noun* : caused by a parasite ▪ a *parasitic* disease/infection

3 *disapproving* : getting food, money, etc., from other people without doing anything to earn it or deserve it ▪ her lazy, *parasitic* brother

para•sol /ˈperəˌsɑːl/ *noun, pl* **-sols** [*count*] : a light umbrella that you use to protect yourself from the sun

para•troop•er /ˈperəˌtruːpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a member of a group of soldiers who are trained to jump out of airplanes using a parachute

para•troops /ˈperəˌtruːps/ *noun* [*plural*] : a group of soldiers who are trained to jump out of airplanes using a parachute : a group of paratroopers

– **para•troop** /ˈperəˌtruːp/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *paratroop* unit

par•boil /ˈpɑɚˌbojəl/ *verb* **-boils**; **-boiled**; **-boil•ing** [+ *obj*] : to boil (a piece of food) for a short time often before cooking it fully in another way ▪ *Parboil* the potatoes before you roast them.

¹par•cel /ˈpɑɚsəl/ *noun, pl* **-cels** [*count*]

1 : a section or area of land ▪ Several 10-acre *parcels* (of land) are available. ▪ a *parcel* of real estate

2 : a box or large envelope that is usually given, sent, or delivered to a person ▪ The *parcel* [=(*chiefly US*) *package*] was shipped today. ▪ She was carrying several brown paper *parcels*. [=boxes wrapped in heavy brown paper] — see picture at MAIL

part and parcel of see ¹PART

²parcel *verb* **parcels**; *US* **par•celed** *or Brit* **par•celled**; *US* **par•cel•ing** *or Brit* **par•cel•ling**

parcel off [*phrasal verb*] ***parcel (something) off*** *or* ***parcel off (something)*** : to divide (something, such as land) into separate, smaller parts especially in order to sell it ▪ The property was eventually *parceled off* and sold in pieces.

parcel out [*phrasal verb*] ***parcel (something) out*** *or* ***parcel out (something)*** : to divide or share (something) among different people, groups, etc. ▪ The money was *parceled out* [=*distributed*] to local charities. ▪ They plan to *parcel* the tickets *out* in a lottery. ▪ We need to stop *parceling out* the blame for this problem and start working on a solution.

parcel up [*phrasal verb*] ***parcel (something) up*** *or* ***parcel up (something)*** *Brit* : to wrap (something) or put (something) into a box in order to mail it to someone ▪ The paintings have all been *parcelled up*.

parcel bomb *noun, pl* ~ **bombs** [*count*] *Brit* : LETTER BOMB

parcel post *noun* [*noncount*] : a service that people in the U.S. can use to mail packages ▪ Do you want to send this (by) *parcel post*?

parch /ˈpɑɚʧ/ *verb* **parch•es**; **parched**; **parch•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to make (something) very dry ▪ The hot desert sun had *parched* the land.

parched /ˈpɑɚʧt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very dry especially because of hot weather and no rain ▪ *parched* land

2 *somewhat informal* : very thirsty ▪ Could I have some water? I'm *parched*.

Par•chee•si /pɑɚˈʧiːzi/ *trademark* — used for a game in which players try to be the first to move all of their pieces all the way around a board

parch•ment /ˈpɑɚʧmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**

1 a [*noncount*] : paper made from the skin of a sheep or goat ▪ Ancient people wrote on *parchment*. **b** [*count*] : a document written on parchment ▪ a *parchment* dating back to ancient times

2 [*noncount*] : strong and thick paper; *especially, chiefly US* : strong, tough paper that is used by cooks ▪ Line the pan with a sheet of *parchment*. — called also *parchment paper*

¹par•don /ˈpɑɚdn̩/ *verb* **par•dons**; **par•doned**; **par•don•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to officially say that someone who is guilty of a crime will be allowed to go free and will not be punished ▪ *pardon* a criminal

2 : to say that someone should not be blamed for thinking, doing, or saying something — usually used as *(be) pardoned for* ▪ Voters can/should/could *be pardoned for* thinking this election would be different.

3 : to officially say that a person, country, etc., does not have to pay (a debt) ▪ The group wants the debt of the world's poorest countries to be *pardoned*. [=*forgiven*]

4 — used to be polite in asking questions or saying things that could be considered rude ▪ *Pardon* my ignorance, but what does "naiveté" mean? ▪ *Pardon* my asking, but is that your natural hair color? ▪ *Pardon* my saying so, but you look tired today. = You look tired today, if you'll *pardon* my saying so. ▪ *Pardon* me for asking, but how old are you?

pardon me **1** — used as a polite way of starting to say something when you are interrupting someone, trying to get someone's attention, or disagreeing with someone ▪ *Pardon me*, but can I speak to you privately for a moment? ▪ *Pardon me*, (but) you dropped this envelope. ▪ *Pardon me*, but I believe you've made a mistake. **2** *also* ***pardon*** — used as a polite apology for a minor fault or offense (such as laughing, coughing, or bumping into someone) ▪ Oh, *pardon me*. I didn't see you standing there. ▪ *Pardon*—I didn't mean to bump you. **3** *also* ***pardon*** — used as a polite way of asking someone to repeat something spoken ▪ *Pardon me*? I didn't hear you. ▪ "Are you ready to go?" "*Pardon*?" "I asked if you were ready to go."

pardon my French *informal + humorous* — used to apologize for using offensive language ▪ Everything he said is bullshit. *Pardon my French*.

pardon the expression see EXPRESSION

²pardon *noun, pl* **-dons** [*count*]

1 : an act of officially saying that someone who was judged to be guilty of a crime will be allowed to go free and will not be punished ▪ The governor granted him a *pardon*. ▪ She received a ***presidential/royal pardon***. [=a pardon from a president or a king or queen]

2 *formal* : forgiveness for something ▪ He asked/begged my *pardon* for taking so much of my time. — see also *beg your pardon* at BEG

par•don•able /ˈpɑɚdn̩əbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : able to be forgiven : not so bad that it cannot be forgiven or excused ▪ It was a *pardonable* mistake/error.

pare /ˈpeɚ/ *verb* **pares**; **pared**; **par•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to carefully cut off the outside or the ends of (something) ▪ *pare* an apple ▪ She was *paring* [=(more commonly) *trimming*] her fingernails. — often + *away* ▪ *Pare away* any brown spots on the avocado. — see also PARING KNIFE

2 : to make (something) smaller : to reduce (something) in size, amount, or number ▪ The company has to find a way to *pare* expenses. ▪ The budget has been ***pared to the bone***. [=reduced as much as possible] — often + *down* ▪ The book was *pared down* to 200 pages. ▪ The company has to *pare down* the office staff. ▪ The *pared-down* staff was forced to work longer hours.

par•ent /ˈperənt/ *noun, pl* **-ents** [*count*]

1 a : a person who is a father or mother : a person who has a child ▪ My *parents* live in New York. ▪ They recently became *parents*. = They're new *parents*. ▪ The form must be signed by a *parent* or guardian of the child. ▪ A few of us are ***single parents***. [=parents who live with a child or children and no husband, wife, or partner] ▪ my ***adoptive parents*** [=the people who adopted me] ▪ The organization helps people who were

adopted find their ***birth/biological parents***. [=their natural parents] ▪ They'd like to become ***foster parents***. [=people who volunteer to care for a child who is not their biological child] — compare GRANDPARENT, STEPPARENT **b :** an animal or plant that produces a young animal or plant ▪ The *parent* brings food to the chicks. ▪ the *parent* bird ▪ The new plant will have characteristics of both *parent* plants.

2 a : something out of which another thing has developed — usually used before another noun ▪ Latin is the *parent* language of several languages, including Italian, Spanish, and French. **b :** a company or organization that owns and controls a smaller company or organization ▪ the hospital's corporate *parent* = the corporate *parent* of the hospital — often used before another noun ▪ a *parent* bank/company/corporation/firm

– pa·ren·tal /pə'rɛntl/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *parental* responsibility/consent

par·ent·age /'perəntɪʤ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* **:** a person's parents — used especially to describe the origins or social status of someone's parents ▪ She was born in Japan, but (is) of African *parentage*. [=*descent*] ▪ a person of noble/wealthy *parentage* [=*birth, ancestry*]

pa·ren·the·sis /pə'rɛnθəsəs/ *noun, pl* **-the·ses** /-θə,si:z/ [*count*] **:** one of a pair of marks ( ) that are used around a word, phrase, sentence, number, etc. — usually plural ▪ The plant's common name is followed by its Latin name *in parentheses*. — called also (*Brit*) *bracket*

par·en·thet·i·cal /,perən'θɛtɪkəl/ *adj* **:** included or added to give information which is not directly related to the main subject that is being discussed ▪ *parenthetical* remarks/references ▪ He explained the process thoroughly, including *parenthetical* comments about his own experiences with it. ▪ a *parenthetical* note [=a note that is shown in parentheses]

– par·en·thet·i·cal·ly /,perən'θɛtɪkli/ *adv* ▪ The author notes *parenthetically* that these meetings were not public.

par·ent·hood /'perənt,hʊd/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** the state of being a mother or a father ▪ the joys of *parenthood*

par·ent·ing /'perəntɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** the process of taking care of children until they are old enough to take care of themselves **:** the things that parents do to raise a child ▪ They share the responsibilities of *parenting*. — often used before another noun ▪ *parenting* skills/issues

parent–in–law *noun, pl* **parents–in–law** [*count*] **:** a parent of your husband or wife **:** IN-LAW

Parent–Teacher Association *noun, pl* **~ -tions** [*count*] **:** a local organization of teachers and parents who work together to improve schools and to help students — abbr. *PTA*

Parent–Teacher Organization *noun, pl* **~ -tions** [*count*] *US* **:** PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION — abbr. *PTO*

par ex·cel·lence /'pɑr,ɛksə'lɑ:ns, *Brit* ,pɑ:r'ɛksə,lɑ:ns/ *adj, always used after a noun, formal* **:** better than all others ▪ a chef *par excellence* [=an excellent chef]

par·fait /pɑ'feɪt/ *noun, pl* **-faits** [*count, noncount*] *US* **:** a cold dessert made usually of layers of ice cream, fruit, and syrup with whipped cream on top

pa·ri·ah /pə'rajə/ *noun, pl* **-ahs** [*count*] **:** a person who is hated and rejected by other people ▪ He's a talented player but his angry outbursts have made him a *pariah* in the sport of baseball. ▪ a social *pariah*

paring knife *noun, pl* **~ knives** [*count*] **:** a small knife with a short blade used especially for cutting fruit and vegetables

par·ings /'perɪŋz/ *noun* [*plural*] **:** thin pieces that have been cut from something ▪ fingernail/cheese *parings*

par·ish /'perɪʃ/ *noun, pl* **-ish·es** [*count*]

1 a : an area that has its own local church and priest or minister ▪ The *parish* will be getting a new priest soon. **b :** the group of people who go to the church in a particular area ▪ The *parish* has grown significantly in the last three years.

2 a *US* **:** an area in Louisiana that is like a county **b** *Brit* **:** a small area that has its own local government

– parish *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *parish* priest/minister ▪ the *parish* church ▪ He was elected to the *parish* council.

pa·rish·io·ner /pə'rɪʃənɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ners** [*count*] **:** a person who goes to a particular local church **:** a person who belongs to a parish ▪ the *parishioners* of First Baptist Church

parish–pump *adj, always used before a noun, Brit, old-fashioned* + *disapproving* **:** only important or interesting to people in a small area ▪ All the articles are about *parish-pump* politics.

par·i·ty /'perəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* **:** the state of being equal ▪ the struggle for gender/racial/social *parity* [=(more commonly) *equality*] ▪ Women have fought for *parity* with men in the workplace. ▪ The two currencies are approaching *parity* for the first time in decades. [=they are coming close to having the same value] ▪ Currently, there is ***rough parity*** in the number of students entering and graduating from the school system. [=the number of students entering and graduating from the school system is about the same]

[1]park /'pɑɚk/ *noun, pl* **parks**

1 [*count*] **a :** a piece of public land in or near a city that is kept free of houses and other buildings and can be used for pleasure and exercise ▪ We went for a walk in the *park*. ▪ New York City's Central *Park* ▪ He was sitting on a *park* bench. [=a bench in a park] ▪ the city's *park/parks* department **b :** a large area of public land kept in its natural state to protect plants and animals ▪ The nation's *parks* are a popular destination for tourists. ▪ Yellowstone (National) *Park* ▪ Many *parks* have campsites. — see also NATIONAL PARK, STATE PARK

2 [*count*] *sports* **a :** a field or stadium where a sport (especially baseball) is played ▪ a baseball *park* ▪ He hit the ball out of the *park*. ▪ Fenway *Park* in Boston — see also BALLPARK **b** *Brit* **:** a soccer or rugby field ▪ a rugby game in Eden *Park* ▪ She's the best player ***on the park***. [=in the game]

3 [*count*] **:** an area that is designed for a specified use ▪ a new ***office park*** [=an area with several buildings that are full of offices; an area for office buildings] ▪ the town's only ***mobile home park*** [=an area for people to live in mobile homes] — see also AMUSEMENT PARK, CAR PARK, INDUSTRIAL PARK, THEME PARK, TRAILER PARK, WATER PARK

4 [*noncount*] *US* **:** a condition in which the gears of a vehicle are in a position that prevents the vehicle from moving ▪ The car must be in *park* before you can turn the engine off. ▪ She pulled over and ***put the car in park***.

walk in the park see [2]WALK

[2]park *verb* **parks; parked; park·ing**

1 a : to leave a car, truck, motorcycle, etc., in a particular place [*no obj*] I couldn't find anywhere to *park*. ▪ I *parked* on the street. [+ *obj*] I *parked* the car on the street. ▪ My car is *parked* behind your truck. = I'm *parked* behind your truck. ▪ a *parked* car — see also DOUBLE-PARK, PARALLEL PARK **b** [*no obj*] *of a car, truck, etc.* **:** to be left in a particular place by a driver ▪ Cars are only allowed to *park* on the right side of this street. ▪ The bus *parked* behind the museum.

2 [+ *obj*] *informal* **a :** to temporarily leave (something) in a particular place ▪ *Park* your bags in the hallway. **b :** to leave (something) in a particular place for a long time or what seems like a long time ▪ She *parked* the money in a savings account and forgot about it for several years.

park yourself *informal* **:** to sit in a particular place especially for a long time ▪ The kids *parked themselves* in front of the TV. ▪ *Park yourself* in that chair and wait.

par·ka /'pɑɚkə/ *noun, pl* **-kas** [*count*] **:** a very warm jacket with a hood — see color picture on page C15

park and ride *noun* [*noncount*] **:** a system in which you drive to a place where you can leave your car and get on a bus or train that will take you the rest of the way to where you are going

parking *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the act of leaving a car, truck, motorcycle, etc., in a particular place ▪ There is no *parking* in this area. [=you are not allowed to park in this area] ▪ It's always difficult to find a ***parking place/space/spot*** [=a place to park your car, truck, etc.] in this neighborhood.

2 : space in which vehicles can be parked ▪ The restaurant has very little *parking*, so we'll have to park on the street. ▪ They have plenty of free *parking*.

parking brake *noun, pl* **~ brakes** [*count*] *US* **:** a piece of equipment in a car, truck, etc., that prevents the vehicle from moving when it is parked or stops the vehicle if the main brakes fail

parking garage *noun, pl* **~ garages** [*count*] *US* **:** a building in which people usually pay to park their cars, trucks, etc. — called also (*Brit*) *car park*

parking light *noun, pl* **~ lights** [*count*] *US* **:** either one of two small lights that are on the front of a vehicle next to the headlights — called also (*Brit*) *sidelight*; see picture at CAR

parking lot *noun, pl* **~ lots** [*count*] *US* **:** an area outside a building for parking cars, trucks, etc. ▪ the school/hospital/mall *parking lot* — called also (*Brit*) *car park*

parking meter *noun, pl* **~ -ters** [*count*] **:** a machine near a

parking place on the side of a road that you put coins into in order to legally park there — see picture at STREET

parking ticket *noun, pl* ~ **-ets** [*count*] : a piece of paper that officially tells you that you have parked your car, truck, etc., illegally or for too long and will have to pay a fine

Par·kin·son's disease /ˈpɑɚkənsənz-/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a disease that affects the nervous system and causes people's muscles to become weak and their arms and legs to shake — called also *Parkinson's*

park–keeper *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *Brit* : a person who takes care of a park

park·land /ˈpɑɚkˌlænd/ *noun, pl* **-lands** : land with trees, bushes, etc., that is or could be used as a park [*noncount*] an area of beautiful *parkland* [*count*] beautiful *parklands*

park ranger *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : RANGER 1b

park·way /ˈpɑɚkˌweɪ/ *noun, pl* **-ways** [*count*] *US* : a wide road with trees and grass along the sides and often in the middle

par·lance /ˈpɑɚləns/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : language used by a particular group of people ▪ In military *parlance*, "bug out" means "to retreat." [=for people in the military, "bug out" means "to retreat"] ▪ The book introduced many readers to terms that are now ***in common parlance***. [=used by many people in ordinary conversation]

par·lay /ˈpɑɚˌleɪ, *Brit* ˈpɑɚli/ *verb* **-lays**; **-layed**; **-lay·ing** [+ *obj*] *US* : to use or develop (something) to get something else that has greater value — + *into* ▪ He hoped to *parlay* his basketball skills *into* a college scholarship. ▪ She *parlayed* $5,000 and years of hard work *into* a multimillion-dollar company.

Do not confuse *parlay* with *parley*.

par·ley /ˈpɑɚli/ *verb* **-leys**; **-leyed**; **-ley·ing** [*no obj*] *old-fashioned* : to talk with an enemy or someone you disagree with especially in order to end a conflict — usually + *with* ▪ The government refused to *parley with* the rebels.

Do not confuse *parley* with *parlay*.

– **parley** *noun, pl* **-leys** [*count*] *old-fashioned* ▪ a secret *parley*

par·lia·ment /ˈpɑɚləmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**

1 a : the group of people who are responsible for making the laws in some kinds of government [*count*] The *parliament* has authority over the armed forces. ▪ the *parliaments* of Russia and Canada = the Russian and Canadian *parliaments* [*noncount*] laws made by *parliament* **b** ***Parliament*** [*noncount*] : a particular parliament; *especially* : the parliament of the United Kingdom that includes the House of Commons and the House of Lords ▪ The issue was debated in *Parliament*. ▪ a member of *Parliament* — see also HUNG PARLIAMENT

2 [*count*] : the period of time during which a parliament is working ▪ The law was passed in the present *parliament*.

par·lia·men·tar·i·an /ˌpɑɚləˌmɛnˈterijən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*] : a member of a parliament; *especially* : a member who knows a lot about the way things are done in a parliament

par·lia·men·ta·ry /ˌpɑɚləˈmɛntri/ *adj, always used before a noun* : relating to or including a parliament ▪ a *parliamentary* democracy/government ▪ *parliamentary* elections/candidates

par·lor (*US*) *or Brit* **par·lour** /ˈpɑɚlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-lors** [*count*]

1 : a store or business that sells a specified kind of food or service ▪ an ice-cream *parlor* ▪ a pizza *parlor* ▪ a beauty/funeral/tattoo *parlor* — see also MASSAGE PARLOR

2 *old-fashioned* : a room in a house or apartment that is used for conversation or for spending time with guests ▪ We sat in the ***front parlor*** [=a parlor in the front of a house/apartment] and had a nice visit.

parlor game (*US*) *or Brit* **parlour game** *noun, pl* ~ **games** [*count*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : a game (such as a board game, card game, or guessing game) that you play inside your home

par·lous /ˈpɑɚləs/ *adj, formal* : full of danger or risk : PERILOUS ▪ The company is in a *parlous* financial situation. ▪ He talked about the *parlous* state of the country.

Par·me·san /ˈpɑɚməˌzɑːn, *Brit* ˌpɑːməˈzæn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a hard Italian cheese — called also *Parmesan cheese*

pa·ro·chi·al /pəˈroʊkijəl/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* : of or relating to a church parish and the area around it ▪ our pastor and other *parochial* leaders

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* + *usually disapproving* : limited to only the things that affect your local area ▪ voters worried about their own *parochial* concerns ▪ a small town with a *parochial* [=*narrow-minded, small-minded*] point of view

– **pa·ro·chi·al·ism** /pəˈroʊkijəˌlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *parochialism* of their views

parochial school *noun, pl* ~ **schools** [*count*] *US* : a private school that is run by a church parish

par·o·dist /ˈperədɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who writes parodies

[1]par·o·dy /ˈperədi/ *noun, pl* **-dies**

1 : a piece of writing, music, etc., that imitates the style of someone or something else in an amusing way [*count*] a political *parody* ▪ He has a talent for writing *parodies*. — often + *of* ▪ The book was written as a *parody of* Henry James's style. ▪ a *parody of* a soap opera [*noncount*] a writer with a talent for *parody*

2 [*count*] *disapproving* : a bad or unfair example of something — often + *of* ▪ The trial was a *parody of* justice. [=the trial was very unfair]

[2]parody *verb* **-dies**; **-died**; **-dy·ing** [+ *obj*] : to imitate (someone or something) in an amusing way ▪ It was easy to *parody* the book's fancy language. ▪ She *parodied* her brother's poetry.

[1]pa·role /pəˈroʊl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : permission given to a prisoner to leave prison before the end of a sentence usually as a reward for behaving well ▪ The prisoner will be eligible for *parole* after three years. ▪ He was given a life sentence without (the possibility of) *parole*. ▪ He was granted/denied *parole*. ▪ a *parole* hearing ▪ She robbed a bank while out ***on parole***. ▪ The prisoner was released *on parole*.

[2]parole *verb* **-roles**; **-roled**; **-rol·ing** [+ *obj*] : to release (a prisoner) on parole — usually used as *(be) paroled* ▪ He *was paroled* after three years.

pa·rol·ee /pəˌroʊˈliː/ *noun, pl* **-ees** [*count*] : a prisoner who is released on parole

par·ox·ysm /ˈperəkˌsɪzəm/ *noun, pl* **-ysms** [*count*]

1 *medical* : a sudden attack or increase of symptoms of a disease (such as pain, coughing, shaking, etc.) that often occurs again and again — usually + *of* ▪ *paroxysms of* pain/coughing

2 *formal* : a sudden strong feeling or expression of emotion that cannot be controlled ▪ a *paroxysm of* rage ▪ He went into *paroxysms* of laughter.

par·quet /ˈpɑɚˌkeɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a surface (such as a floor) made of small pieces of wood that fit together to form a pattern — often used before another noun ▪ a *parquet* floor

[1]par·rot /ˈperət/ *noun, pl* **-rots** [*count*] : a bright-colored tropical bird that has a curved bill and the ability to imitate speech — see color picture on page C9

[2]parrot *verb* **-rots**; **-rot·ed**; **-rot·ing** [+ *obj*] *disapproving* : to repeat (something, such as words, ideas, etc.) without understanding the meaning ▪ Some of the students were just *parroting* what the teacher said.

parrot–fashion *adv, Brit* : without understanding what something means ▪ The student recited the speech *parrot-fashion* and could not answer any questions about it.

par·ry /ˈperi/ *verb* **-ries**; **-ried**; **-ry·ing**

1 : to defend yourself by turning or pushing aside (a punch, a weapon, etc.) [+ *obj*] *parry* [=*deflect*] a blow ▪ He *parried* the thrust of his opponent's sword. [*no obj*] He *parried* and then threw a punch.

2 [+ *obj*] : to avoid giving a direct answer to (a question) by being skillful or clever ▪ She cleverly *parried* the reporters' questions.

– **parry** *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*]

parse /ˈpɑɚs, *Brit* ˈpɑːz/ *verb* **pars·es**; **parsed**; **pars·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *grammar* : to divide (a sentence) into grammatical parts and identify the parts and their relations to each other ▪ Students were asked to *parse* the sentence.

2 : to study (something) by looking at its parts closely : ANALYZE ▪ Economists *parsed* the census data.

par·si·mo·ni·ous /ˌpɑɚsəˈmoʊnijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : very unwilling to spend money ▪ The company is *parsimonious* [=*stingy*] with employee benefits. ▪ a *parsimonious* [=*thrifty*] shopper

– **par·si·mo·ni·ous·ly** *adv*

par·si·mo·ny /ˈpɑɚsəˌmoʊni/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the quality of being very unwilling to spend money ▪ The charity was surprised by the *parsimony* of some larger corporations.

pars·ley /ˈpɑɚsli/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a plant with small green

P

leaves that are used to season or decorate food — see color picture on page C6

pars•nip /ˈpɑɚsnəp/ *noun, pl* **-nips** [*count, noncount*] : a vegetable that is the long white root of a plant related to the carrot — see color picture on page C4

par•son /ˈpɑɚsn̩/ *noun, pl* **-sons** [*count*] *old-fashioned*
1 : a minister who is in charge of a parish
2 : a member of the clergy and especially a Protestant pastor

par•son•age /ˈpɑɚsənɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ag•es** [*count*] : the house in which a parson lives

[1]part /ˈpɑɚt/ *noun, pl* **parts**
1 [*count*] **a** : one of the pieces, sections, qualities, etc., that make or form something ▪ The entire book is good, but the best *part* is the ending. ▪ I don't remember him saying that. I must have missed that *part*. — often + *of* ▪ This is the best *part of* the movie. ▪ He's from the western *part of* the state. ▪ The disease is increasingly common in this *part of* the world. ▪ the early/latter *part of* this century ▪ Music is an important/major/essential *part of* my life. It's very much a *part of* me. ▪ It's the *part of* the job he enjoys the least. ▪ a natural *part of* growing up ▪ A *part of* me wants to stay, but another *part of* me wants to go. ▪ That was not a *part of* our original agreement. ▪ She left out that *part of* the story. ▪ Some *parts of* your speech were excellent. = Your speech was excellent ***in parts*** ▪ Babies spend ***a good part of*** [=a large amount of] the day sleeping. — see also BEAUTY PART, PART OF SPEECH, PRINCIPAL PARTS **b** : one of the pieces that are put together to form a machine ▪ The mechanic had to order the *part* from the manufacturer. ▪ an auto *parts* warehouse ▪ The *parts* of a radio include the speaker, dials, and antenna. ▪ Do you have any spare/replacement *parts* for this model of car? ▪ the moving *parts* of the machine **c** : one of the pieces or areas of the body of a plant or animal ▪ *parts* of the human body ▪ My favorite *part* of the chicken is the drumstick. ▪ body *parts* ▪ a diagram labeling the different *parts* of the flower — see also PRIVATE PARTS
2 [*noncount*] : some but not all of something — + *of* ▪ We spent *part of* the day at the beach. ▪ The river forms *part of* the border between the two countries. ▪ The numbers tell only *part of* the story. ▪ Instead of being *part of* the solution, they became *part of* the problem. ▪ Sure it's messy, but that's *part of* the fun/appeal. ▪ Homelessness is *part of* a larger problem facing this country. ▪ The program is *part of* a larger effort to help the world's children.
3 : a person who is a member of a group or who is included in an activity — usually + *of* [*noncount*] Come join us and be *part of* a winning team. ▪ She wanted to be *part of* the action. [*count*] They considered her (to be) a *part of* the family. ▪ He was an important *part of* the team's win. [=he did a lot to help the team to win]
4 [*count*] : one of the sections into which a book, play, television show, etc., is divided ▪ *Part* one of the miniseries airs next Monday. ▪ The first and second *parts* of Goethe's *Faust* are divided into acts. ▪ Shakespeare's *Henry VI, Parts* I, II, and III
5 [*count*] : the character played by an actor in a play, movie, etc. ▪ He got/landed the *part* of Romeo in his high school play. ▪ They said she was wrong for the *part* because she was too tall. = They said she was too tall to play the *part*. ▪ He has a small/bit *part* in the movie. — often used figuratively ▪ In his cowboy hat and boots, he certainly ***looked the part*** [=he looked like a cowboy] ▪ Now that he's rich he certainly ***acts the part*** [=behaves like a rich person] ▪ If you want people at work to believe that you're a professional, you have to ***dress the part*** ▪ I've ***played the part*** of (the) devoted wife and mother, and now I want to do something more with my life. ▪ He was *playing the part* of (the) gracious host.
6 [*count*] : an influence in producing a result or causing something — usually + *in* ▪ My father's *part in* my upbringing was minimal. [=my father was not very involved in my upbringing] ▪ She talked about television's *part in* modern elections. ▪ Did alcohol ***play a part in*** the car accident? = Did alcohol ***have a part in*** causing the accident? [=was alcohol involved in the accident?] ▪ Your family's finances *play a* big/major/significant *part in* determining how much financial aid you will receive for college. ▪ We all ***have a part to play in*** the future of this company. ▪ Parents *have a* big/important/significant *part to play in* the habits of their children. ▪ So far, she has ***had no part in*** planning the event. [=she has not been involved in planning the event] ▪ He stated that politics ***played no part in*** his decision. ▪ When her father became ill, she began to ***take an active part in*** running her family's farm. ▪ They *took an active part in* the antiwar movement. — see also TAKE PART (below)
7 [*count*] : the notes that are sung by a particular singer or played on a particular instrument in a piece of music that is written for more than one voice or instrument ▪ I'm usually a soprano, but I was told to sing the alto *part* for this song. ▪ The song's flute *part* is especially beautiful. ▪ singing in four-*part* harmony
8 *parts* [*plural*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : a general area with no exact limits or boundaries ▪ I can tell from your accent that you're not from around ***these parts*** [=not from around here] ▪ Tornadoes are pretty rare in *these parts*. ▪ She graduated from high school and left for ***parts unknown*** [=a place that isn't known]
9 [*count*] *US* : the line where a person's hair is separated and combed to opposite sides of the head ▪ a *part* down the middle of her head ▪ a side *part* ▪ He combs his hair back without a *part*. — called also (*Brit*) *parting*; see picture at HAIR
10 [*count*] : an amount that is equal to another amount ▪ Mix one *part* sugar with two *parts* flour. ▪ The movie is one *part* action and one *part* comedy. = The movie is equal *parts* action and comedy.

do your part : to do what you are responsible for doing or are able to do ▪ I've *done my part*, and now it's time for him to do his. ▪ Please *do your part* by donating what you can to the organization.

for someone's part : in someone's opinion ▪ She doesn't trust him, but *for my part* [=as for me; in my opinion], I think he's a nice guy. ▪ *For his part*, the Senator believes that the proposal will benefit American companies.

for the most part see [1]MOST

in good/great/large part : not entirely but mostly ▪ The success of our company depends, *in good part*, on the condition of the economy. ▪ I believe that their actions were motivated *in great part* [=*largely*] by a desire for revenge.

in no small part : to a great degree : largely or mostly ▪ The team's success is due *in no small part* to the hard work of its players.

in part : to some extent : partially or partly ▪ Thanks *in part* to her performance in that movie role, she became one of the most popular actresses in Hollywood. ▪ The project failed *in part* because of a lack of funds. ▪ The city's problems are due, at least *in part*, to its geographical location.

of parts : having many talents or skills ▪ a man/woman *of* (many) *parts*

on someone's part *or* ***on the part of someone*** : by or from someone ▪ It took a lot of hard work *on* everyone's *part* [=done by everyone] to finish the project on time. ▪ It was a good effort *on the part of* all the students. [=all the students made a good effort] ▪ There is a lot of sympathy for the accused woman *on the part of* the public. [=the public feels a lot of sympathy for her]

part and parcel of : a basic and necessary part of (something) ▪ Stress was *part and parcel of* the job.

sum of its parts see [1]SUM

take part : to be involved in something : to participate in something ▪ The event was a great success, and I would like to thank everyone who *took part*. ▪ The entire family *takes part* in cleaning the house. ▪ They refused to *take part* in the discussion. ▪ He swore that he ***took no part*** [=was not involved] in the group's illegal activities. — see also [1]PART 6 (above)

take someone's part *chiefly Brit* : to show support for someone in an argument, disagreement, etc. ▪ The public has *taken the accused woman's part* [=*taken her side*, *sided with her*] because of her young age.

take something in good part *Brit, old-fashioned* : to not become too angry or upset about something : to not object too much to something ▪ I was nervous when I had to tell him that he was wrong, but fortunately he *took it in good part* and we stayed friends.

the best/better/greater part of something : more than half of something : most of something ▪ It took us *the better part of* a week to finish the job. ▪ We've been waiting for *the better part of* an hour. ▪ They live here for *the greater part of* the year.

want no part of/in something : to refuse to be involved in something ▪ She said that she didn't agree with what they were doing and *wanted no part of* it. ▪ I *want no part of* this scheme. ▪ He *wanted no part in* discussing the issue.

[2]part *verb* **parts; part•ed; part•ing**
1 : to separate into two or more parts that move away from each other [*no obj*] The crowd *parted* to let the president

through. ▪ The rain stopped and the clouds *parted*. ▪ The big red curtains *parted* to reveal a new car! [+ *obj*] The Bible tells the story of how God *parted* the Red Sea. ▪ She closed her eyes and *parted* her lips. ▪ Her lips were *parted*.

2 [+ *obj*] : to separate (the hair on a person's head) into two parts on each side of a line by using a comb ▪ She *parts* her hair on the side. ▪ His dark hair was *parted* down/in the middle.

3 *formal* **a** [*no obj*] : to leave each other ▪ The two lovers *parted* at dawn. ▪ Tomorrow we shall *part* and, I fear, never see each other again. : to go or move away *from* someone ▪ She couldn't bear the thought of *parting from* her family. **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to be separated *from* someone — usually used as *(be) parted* ▪ She couldn't bear to *be parted from* her family.

4 [*no obj*] *somewhat formal* : to end a relationship ▪ The band *parted* after 10 successful years of performing together. ▪ We *parted* on friendly terms. ▪ The couple *parted* [=*separated*] in the summer of 2005. — often + *from* ▪ By that time, he had already *parted from* his first wife.

part company *formal* **1** : to end a relationship ▪ There are rumors that the football team and its coach have *parted company*. — often + *with* ▪ I *parted company with* my business partners after a dispute about finances. **2** : to leave each other ▪ Much has happened since we *parted company*. ▪ The two friends *parted company* in the parking lot and drove home separately. **3** : to disagree with someone about something ▪ The president and I *part company* on some important issues. — often + *with* ▪ I don't believe in the death penalty, so I'm afraid I must *part company with* you there. [=I do not agree with you about that]

part ways *chiefly US* **1** : to end a relationship ▪ The band *parted ways* after releasing their third album. — often + *with* ▪ She has since *parted ways with* the organization. **2** : to leave each other ▪ We said our goodbyes and *parted ways*. **3** : to disagree with someone about something ▪ We *part ways* on that issue.

part with [*phrasal verb*] ***part with (something)*** : to give up possession or control of (something) ▪ He hated to *part with* that old car. ▪ *parting with* a large amount of money

[3]part *adv* : somewhat but not completely : to some extent or in some degree ▪ The story is *part* science and *part* fiction. ▪ She's *part* French and *part* Italian. [=some of her relatives or ancestors are from France and some are from Italy] ▪ His statement is only *part* [=*partially, partly*] right. [=only part of his statement is right] ▪ The Chimera is a monster in Greek mythology that is *part* lion, *part* goat, and *part* serpent.

[4]part *adj, always used before a noun* : not complete or total ▪ The claim is a *part* truth—there is more to the story than they are telling you. ▪ She's the executive chef and ***part owner*** of the restaurant. [=she and other people own the restaurant as partners] ▪ (*Brit*) You can trade in your old car as ***part payment*** for a new one.

par·take /pɑəˈteɪk/ *verb* **-takes**; **-took** /-ˈtʊk/; **-tak·en** /-ˈteɪkən/; **-tak·ing** [*no obj*] *formal*

1 a : to have a share or part of something along with others ▪ There was food available, but he chose not to *partake*. [=he chose not to eat any of the food] — usually + *of* ▪ Music lovers *partook of* the rich offerings of the music festival. ▪ He had *partaken of* too much dinner and was now stuffed. **b** : to join with others *in* doing something : to take part *in* something ▪ Let us all *partake in* [=(more commonly) join in] this celebration.

2 : to have some of the qualities *of* something ▪ a story that *partakes of* the nature of poetry

– **par·tak·er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ *partakers* of the feast ▪ *partakers* in the ceremony

par·tial /ˈpɑəʃəl/ *adj*

1 : not complete or total ▪ These plants prefer full sun or *partial* shade. ▪ The *partial* ban on immigration has been lifted. ▪ His latest play was deemed only a *partial* success by the critics. ▪ a *partial* eclipse of the sun ▪ He wears a *partial* denture. ▪ She suggested a *partial* solution to the problem.

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : tending to treat one person, group, or thing better than another ▪ The competition's judges take great care not to seem *partial*. [=*biased*] ▪ A referee must not be *partial* toward either team. — opposite IMPARTIAL

partial to : liking something or someone very much and usually more than other things or people ▪ I like all the food here, but I'm particularly *partial to* the fried chicken. ▪ She says she's *partial to* tall men with dark hair. ▪ I'm not *partial to* red wine. [=I do not like red wine]

par·tial·i·ty /ˌpɑəʃiˈæləti/ *noun, formal*

1 [*noncount*] : an unfair tendency to treat one person, group, or thing better than another ▪ Judges must not show *partiality* [=*bias*] during the competition.

2 [*singular*] : a tendency to like something or someone — often + *to* ▪ I don't understand his *partiality to* modern art. [=I don't understand why he likes modern art] — often + *for* ▪ She has a *partiality for* tall men with dark hair.

par·tial·ly /ˈpɑəʃəli/ *adv* : somewhat but not completely : to some extent or in some degree : PARTLY ▪ I guess I'm *partially* responsible for what happened. ▪ He only *partially* explained his reason for leaving. ▪ The building was *partially* destroyed in the fire.

par·tic·i·pant /pɑəˈtɪsəpənt/ *noun, pl* **-pants** [*count*] : a person who is involved in an activity or event : a person who participates in an activity or event — often + *in* ▪ All the *participants in* the cooking contest received a free cookbook. ▪ They were active *participants in* the project.

par·tic·i·pate /pɑəˈtɪsəˌpeɪt/ *verb* **-pates**; **-pat·ed**; **-pating** [*no obj*] : to be involved with others in doing something : to take part in an activity or event with others ▪ Most people joined the game, but a few chose not to *participate*. — often + *in* ▪ If you don't *participate in* the planning of the trip, you can't complain about what we plan. ▪ He never *participated in* sports in high school. ▪ *Participating* employees [=employees who have chosen to join] can contribute up to 14 percent of their wages to the retirement plan. ▪ Look for these specials at a *participating* store [=a store that participates in an advertised sale or promotion] near you.

– **par·tic·i·pa·tion** /pɑəˌtɪsəˈpeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He noted a lack of *participation* by the people who would benefit the most. ▪ The show had a lot of audience *participation*. — often + *in* ▪ He is known for his active *participation in* community affairs. ▪ the *participation* of women *in* politics ▪ *Participation in* the retirement plan is voluntary.

par·tic·i·pa·to·ry /pɑəˈtɪsəpəˌtori, *Brit* pɑˌtɪsəˈpeɪtri/ *adj, formal* : providing the opportunity for people to be involved in deciding how something is done ▪ *participatory* democracy/management

par·ti·ci·ple /ˈpɑətəˌsɪpəl/ *noun, pl* **-ciples** [*count*] *grammar* : a form of a verb that is used to indicate a past or present action and that can also be used like an adjective ▪ In the phrases "the finishing touches" and "the finished product," "finishing" and "finished" are *participles* formed from the verb "finish." — see also PAST PARTICIPLE, PRESENT PARTICIPLE

– **par·ti·cip·i·al** /ˌpɑətəˈsɪpijəl/ *adj* ▪ a *participial* phrase

par·ti·cle /ˈpɑətɪkəl/ *noun, pl* **-ticles** [*count*]

1 a : a very small piece of something ▪ fine *particles* of sand ▪ food *particles* **b** : a very small amount of something ▪ There is ***not a particle of*** evidence to support their claim. ▪ There is *not a particle of* truth in what he said.

2 *physics* : any one of the very small parts of matter (such as a molecule, atom, or electron) ▪ subatomic *particles*

3 *grammar* : an adverb or preposition that when combined with a verb creates a phrasal verb ▪ The phrasal verb "look up" consists of the verb "look" and the adverbial *particle* "up."

par·ti·cle·board /ˈpɑətɪkəlˌboəd/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of board made by gluing together very small pieces of wood — called also *chipboard*; compare FIBERBOARD

[1]par·tic·u·lar /pəˈtɪkjələə/ *adj*

1 — used to indicate that one specific person or thing is being referred to and no others ▪ Is there one *particular* [=*specific*] brand you prefer? ▪ I asked for that *particular* seat because it's the one my father used to sit in. ▪ Some lawyers are limited to one *particular* area of law. ▪ Their names are listed in no *particular* order. ▪ He quit his job for no *particular* reason. ▪ I have nothing/something *particular* planned for this evening. ▪ Are you looking for anything *particular*? [=(more commonly) *in particular*]

2 *always used before a noun* : special or more than usual ▪ The computer program will be of *particular* interest to teachers. ▪ Pay *particular* attention to the poet's choice of words.

3 [*more ~; most ~*] : having very definite opinions about what is good or acceptable ▪ You're more *particular* than I am when it comes to (choosing) a restaurant. ▪ Our teacher is very *particular* when it comes to punctuation. — usually + *about* ▪ Grandma is very *particular* [=*choosy, picky*] *about* the kind of olive oil she uses. ▪ She's *particular about* her clothes.

4 [*more ~; most ~*] *somewhat formal* : including many de-

tails • He gave us a very *particular* account of his trip. • a more *particular* description

²particular *noun, pl* **-lars** [*count*] : a specific detail or piece of information • They wanted to know the facts down to every *particular*. — usually plural • Just give us a brief report; you can fill us in on the *particulars* later. • (*Brit*) The teacher asked the students to write down their *particulars* [=personal facts, such as their names and addresses] on a sheet of paper. • (*US, law*) The court ordered the state to file a ***bill of particulars*** [=a detailed list of the charges or claims made in a legal case]

in particular **1** : special or unusual • "What are you doing?" "Nothing *in particular*." • Are you looking for anything *in particular*? [=*specific*] • I have something *in particular* that I would like to discuss. • I made the cookies for ***no one in particular*** [=I did not make the cookies for any particular person] **2** : PARTICULARLY — used to indicate someone or something that deserves special mention • The whole family, but Mom *in particular* [=*especially*], loves to ski. • Heavy rains, in the central valley *in particular*, have driven up the price of lettuce. • He's a brilliant pianist known for his recordings of Bach, *in particular* his recording of the Goldberg Variations.

par·tic·u·lar·i·ty /pəˌtɪkjəˈlerəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** *formal*

1 [*count*] : a small detail • The actors studied all of the *particularities* of the script.

2 : a quality or feature that makes a person or thing different from others [*count*] the special *particularities* of the South • The *particularities* of the job take some time to get used to. [*noncount*] The critic's review stressed the *particularity* [=*uniqueness*] of each work of art in the collection.

3 [*noncount*] : careful attention to detail • She described the scene with great *particularity*.

par·tic·u·lar·ize *also Brit* **par·tic·u·lar·ise** /pəˈtɪkjələˌraɪz/ *verb* **-iz·es**; **-ized**; **-iz·ing** *formal* : to give specific details or examples of (something) [+ *obj*] My lawyer advised me to *particularize* all my complaints against my landlord. [*no obj*] He said he had been treated rudely, then went on to *particularize*.

par·tic·u·lar·ly /pəˈtɪkjələ·li/ *adv*

1 : more than usually : VERY, EXTREMELY • It has been a *particularly* [=*especially*] dry summer. • Pay *particularly* close attention to the second paragraph.

2 — used to indicate someone or something that deserves special mention • I liked all the food, *particularly* [=*especially*] the dessert. • He's good at all his subjects and he's *particularly* good at math. • I am *particularly* pleased that you agreed to take the job. • The tools were useful, *particularly* the knife. [=the tools were useful, and the knife was the most useful of all; the knife, in particular, was useful]

not particularly : only a little : not very or not very much • He is *not particularly* good at math. • I did *not particularly* like the movie. [=I only liked the movie a little] • "Did you like the movie?" "No, *not particularly*."

¹part·ing /ˈpɑə·tɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 : a time or occurrence when people leave each other [*count*] I feared the morning, for I knew that our *parting* would be difficult. • a bitter/sad/tearful *parting* [*noncount*] On *parting*, he took my hand and promised to return. • "Good-night, good-night! *Parting* is such sweet sorrow . . ." —Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*

2 [*count*] : the act of separating something into two or more parts • the *parting* of the Red Sea

3 [*count*] *Brit* : the line where a person's hair is separated : PART • a middle/side *parting*

parting of the ways : a point at which two people or groups decide to end a relationship • She and her political party came to a *parting of the ways* over the war. • These disagreements eventually led to the *parting of the ways* between the two organizations.

²parting *adj, always used before a noun* : given, taken, or done when leaving someone • a *parting* gift/kiss/glance • His *parting* words to me were "Be patient." • As her ***parting shot*** she said that the other candidate simply did not understand the needs of the city's citizens.

¹par·ti·san /ˈpɑə·təzən, *Brit* ˌpɑːtəˈzæn/ *noun, pl* **-sans** [*count*]

1 : a person who strongly supports a particular leader, group, or cause • a *partisan* [=*supporter*] of affirmative action • political *partisans* who only see one side of the problem

2 : a member of a military group that fights against soldiers who have taken control of its country

– par·ti·san·ship /ˈpɑə·təzənˌʃɪp, *Brit* ˌpɑːtəˈzænʃɪp/ *noun* [*noncount*] • The mayor was accused of *partisanship* in his decisions.

²partisan *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *often disapproving* : strongly supporting one leader, group, or cause over another • *partisan* interests/loyalties/politics • She is highly/fiercely *partisan*. — compare BIPARTISAN, NONPARTISAN

¹par·ti·tion /pɑəˈtɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] : a wall or screen that separates one area from another • A thin *partition* separates the two rooms in the cabin. • Folding *partitions* separate the different banquet halls in the building. • The bank teller sat behind a glass *partition*. — see picture at OFFICE

2 [*noncount*] : the division of a country into separate political units • the *partition* of former Yugoslavia • the *partition* of Korea into North and South Korea

²partition *verb* **-tions**; **-tioned**; **-tion·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *formal* : to divide (something) into parts or shares • It was necessary to *partition* the work to be done to make the job easier to accomplish. • The room is *partitioned* into four sections.

2 : to divide (a country) into two or more parts having separate political status • After the war, the country was *partitioned*.

partition off [*phrasal verb*] ***partition (something) off*** *or* ***partition off (something)*** : to separate (an area or part of a room) by using a wall, screen, etc. • The storage area was *partitioned off* from the rest of the basement.

part·ly /ˈpɑə·tli/ *adv* : somewhat but not completely : to some extent or in some degree • We're both *partly* [=*partially*] to blame for what happened. • The project failed *partly* because of a lack of funds. • What you say is only *partly* true. • *partly* cloudy skies

¹part·ner /ˈpɑə·tnə/ *noun, pl* **-ners** [*count*]

1 : someone's husband or wife or the person someone has sexual relations with • His *partner*, his wife of 20 years, was shocked to hear about his accident. • marital/sexual/same-sex *partners* — see also DOMESTIC PARTNER

2 : one of two or more people, businesses, etc., that work together or do business together • They are *partners* in the real estate business. • law *partners* • Singapore's most important trading *partner* is Indonesia. • She was a senior *partner* at the Wall Street firm. — see also SILENT PARTNER, *partner in crime* at CRIME

3 : someone who participates in an activity or game with another person • We were each assigned a *partner* for the project. • a golf/tennis/dance *partner* — see also SPARRING PARTNER

²partner *verb* **-ners**; **-nered**; **-ner·ing** : to be or become a partner : to join *with* someone or something as a partner [*no obj*] The sporting goods store *partnered with* the newspaper to sponsor the road race. • She *partnered with* her sister, and they opened a candy shop together. [+ *obj*] The teacher *partnered* [=*paired*] me *with* Susan for the project. — usually used as *(be) partnered* • I *was partnered with* her in the tournament. [=we were partners in the tournament]

part·ner·ship /ˈpɑə·tnəˌʃɪp/ *noun, pl* **-ships**

1 [*noncount*] : the state of being partners • two people joined ***in partnership*** • scientists working *in partnership* with each other • The company is developing a new car *in partnership* with leading auto manufacturers in Japan. • The two companies have gone/entered ***into partnership*** (with each other).

2 [*count*] : a relationship between partners • Their marriage is a *partnership* that has remained strong despite family illness. • The singing duo has maintained a successful *partnership* for 20 years. • a notable *partnership* between two experienced scientists in the field

3 [*count*] : a business that is owned by partners • He joined the *partnership* last year.

part of speech *noun, pl* **parts of speech** [*count*] : a class of words (such as adjectives, adverbs, nouns, verbs, etc.) that are identified according to the kinds of ideas they express and the way they work in a sentence • What *part of speech* is the word "lovely?"

par·tridge /ˈpɑə·trɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **partridge** *or* **par·tridg·es** [*count*] : a brown bird with a round body and short tail that is often hunted for food and sport

part–time /ˈpɑə·tˈtaɪm/ *adj* : working or involving fewer hours than is considered normal or standard • *part-time* employees/students • a *part-time* job — compare FULL-TIME

– part–time *adv* • She works *part-time* at the office. • I go to college *part-time*. **– part–tim·er** /ˈpɑə·tˌtaɪmə/ *noun, pl*

-ers [*count*] ▪ Some of the employees are full-timers, but most of them are *part-timers*.

part•way /ˈpɑɚtˈweɪ/ *adv* : at a distance or time that is between two points ▪ I was *partway* to school when I realized I had forgotten my book. ▪ *Partway* down the mountain, he sprained his ankle. ▪ The team got a new coach *partway* through the season. ▪ They met up with some friends *partway* through the trip.

[1]par•ty /ˈpɑɚti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*count*]

1 : a social event in which entertainment, food, and drinks are provided ▪ We are having/giving/throwing a *party*. ▪ a high school dance *party* ▪ Were you invited to her *party*? ▪ Our New Year's Eve *party* was a huge success. ▪ a dinner *party* ▪ a birthday/costume/farewell *party* — often used before another noun ▪ a *party* hat/dress ▪ *party* decorations/games ▪ Get in the *party* spirit. ▪ I'm not in a *party* mood. — see also BLOCK PARTY, COCKTAIL PARTY, DRINKS PARTY, HEN PARTY, HOUSE PARTY, SLUMBER PARTY, STAG PARTY, TAILGATE PARTY, TEA PARTY

2 : an organization of people who have similar political beliefs and ideas and who work to have their members elected to positions in the government ▪ political *parties* with opposing agendas ▪ the Democratic/Republican *Party* ▪ The senator is loyal to his *party*. ▪ the ruling *party* [=the party that is in power] ▪ *party* members/policy ▪ the *party* leader

3 *law* : a person who is involved in a legal case or contract ▪ the two *parties* in the marriage contract ▪ the guilty *party* ▪ The *parties* in the lawsuit reached a settlement. — see also THIRD PARTY

4 *formal* : someone or something that is involved in an activity ▪ The principal of the school was urged to be a *party* [=*participant*] in the educational council. ▪ Interested *parties* are asked to contact their local representative. — often + *to* ▪ a *party to* the international coalition aimed at fighting hunger ▪ He refused to be a *party to* [=he refused to take part in] the gambling ring.

5 : a group of people who do something together ▪ a mountain-climbing *party* ▪ a rescue/search *party* — often + *of* ▪ a *party of* travelers from Great Britain ▪ He made a reservation at the restaurant for a *party of* four. [=for a group of four people] ▪ A *party of* teenagers is in charge of the neighborhood cleanup.

the life (and soul) of the party see [1]LIFE

[2]party *verb* **-ties**; **-tied**; **-ty•ing** [*no obj*] *informal* : to have a party or be involved in a party : to spend enjoyable time eating, drinking, dancing, etc., with a group of people ▪ He spent the weekend *partying* with his friends. ▪ We *partied* all night.

– partying *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ His parents told him to stop his *partying* and start studying more.

party animal *noun, pl* ~ **-mals** [*count*] *informal* : a person who enjoys going to parties and drinking a lot of alcohol and behaving in a loud and wild way

par•ty•er /ˈpɑɚtijɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a person who goes to a party

2 *informal* : a person who enjoys going to parties ▪ He was a big *partyer* in college.

party favor *noun, pl* ~ **-vors** [*count*] *US* : a small gift that is given to people at a party — usually plural ▪ All the children received *party favors*.

par•ty•go•er /ˈpɑɚtiˌgowɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who goes to a party

party line *noun, pl* ~ **lines** [*count*] : the official policy or opinion of a political party or other organization that members are expected to support ▪ Congress ***voted along party lines*** [=members of each party voted in the expected way] on the new education bill.

party politics *noun* [*plural*] *often disapproving* : political activities, decisions, etc., that relate to or support a particular political party ▪ *Party politics* played a large role in determining who would be chosen for the position. ▪ They shouldn't allow their votes to be influenced by *party politics*.

party poop•er /-ˈpuːpɚ/ *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* : a person who spoils the fun for other people ▪ Don't be such a *party pooper*!

par value *noun, pl* ~ **-ues** [*count*] : PAR 2

par•ve•nu /ˈpɑɚvəˌnuː, *Brit* ˈpɑːvəˌnjuː/ *noun, pl* **-nus** [*count*] *formal + disapproving* : a person from usually a low social position who has recently or suddenly become wealthy, powerful, or successful but who is not accepted by other wealthy, powerful, and successful people

pash•mi•na /pəʃˈmiːnə/ *noun, pl* **-nas**

1 [*noncount*] : a kind of fine, soft wool from Asia

2 [*count*] : a long piece of clothing made from pashmina and worn around a woman's neck

[1]pass /ˈpæs, *Brit* ˈpɑːs/ *verb* **pass•es**; **passed**; **pass•ing**

1 a : to move past someone or something [*no obj*] The boat was too tall to *pass* beneath/under the bridge. ▪ A flock of geese were *passing* overhead. ▪ Stand here and don't let anyone *pass*. [=move past you] — often + *by* ▪ They *pass by* the library on their way to school. ▪ I was just *passing by* and thought I'd stop and say hello. [+ *obj*] They *pass* the library every morning on their way to school. ▪ The ships *passed* each other in the night. ▪ We *passed* each other in the hallway without looking up. — often + *by* ▪ She was hoping he would stop and talk to her, but he *passed* her *by*. **b** : to move past someone or something that is moving more slowly in the same direction [*no obj*] (*US*) "Is it safe to *pass*?" [=(*Brit*) *overtake*] "No, there's a car coming in the other lane." [+ *obj*] She *passed* two other runners just before the finish line. ▪ He *passed* the slower cars on the highway.

2 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* **a** [*no obj*] : to move or go into or through a particular place ▪ The drug *passes* quickly into the bloodstream. ▪ In a solar eclipse, the moon *passes* between the sun and the Earth. ▪ The airplane *passed* out of sight. — often + *through* ▪ Fear and panic *passed through* the crowd. ▪ A river *passes through* the middle of the city. ▪ Millions of tourists *pass through* the museum every year. ▪ The paper *passes through* the fax machine and comes out the other end. ▪ The bullet *passed through* his shoulder. ▪ We *passed through* Texas on our way to Mexico. ▪ We're just ***passing through***. [=staying here for a very short time] **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to move or go in a specified way ▪ *Pass* the end of the string through the loop. ▪ He *passed* the rope around the pole.

3 [+ *obj*] : to give (something) to someone using your hands ▪ She *passed* the baby back to his mother. ▪ Would you please *pass* the salt? ▪ *Pass* [=*hand*] me the butter, please. ▪ They started *passing* around pictures of their trip. ▪ Take one sheet and *pass* the rest down/on/along. [=take one sheet and give the rest to the next person] ▪ Can you *pass* that screwdriver over to me?

4 *sports* : to throw, hit, or kick a ball or puck to a teammate [+ *obj*] *Pass* me the ball! = *Pass* the ball to me! [*no obj*] She *passed* to her teammate who then scored a goal.

5 [+ *obj*] **a** : to cause someone to have or be affected by (something that you have had or been affected by) ▪ The disease was *passed* from mother to child. = She *passed* the disease to her child. — often + *on* ▪ She contracted the disease and *passed* it *on* to her child. ▪ Gas prices have risen, forcing companies to *pass* the cost *on* to the consumer. ▪ We lowered our costs and are now able to *pass on* the savings to our customers. — sometimes + *along* ▪ We're *passing* the savings *along* to our customers. **b** : to give (information) to another person — often + *on* ▪ Doctors need to *pass* this information *on* to their patients. ▪ Everyone's invited to the party. ***Pass it on***! [=tell people that everyone is invited] — often + *along* ▪ They quickly *passed* the word *along* that the meeting was postponed. ▪ He told me about it, and now I'm *passing* it *along* to you.

6 [*no obj*] **a** : to go from one person to another person ▪ The rumor quickly *passed* [=*spread*] from person to person. ▪ The book *passed* from hand to hand. **b** : to be given to someone especially according to a law, rule, etc. ▪ The throne *passed* to the king's son. ▪ Ownership *passes* to the buyer upon payment in full. ▪ After her death, the house ***passed into the hands of*** her granddaughter. [=her granddaughter became the owner of the house]

7 *of time* **a** [*no obj*] : to go by ▪ Several months *passed* before I received a reply. ▪ He became sleepy as the time *passed*. ▪ The days *pass* quickly when you're on vacation. ▪ Another day *passed* without any news about the whereabouts of their missing son. **b** [+ *obj*] : to let (time or a period of time) go by especially while you are doing something enjoyable ▪ He *passes* [=*spends*] his days reading and taking walks around the neighborhood. ▪ They *passed* the evening playing cards. ▪ We played games to ***pass the time*** on the bus. ▪ I walked over to my neighbor's house to ***pass the time of day***. [=to have a friendly and informal conversation]

8 [*no obj*] **a** : to happen or take place ▪ The meeting *passed* without incident. ▪ He hoped that his mistake would ***pass unnoticed***. [=not be noticed by anyone] — often + *between* ▪ A meaningful glance *passed between* them. [=they glanced at each other in a meaningful way] ▪ It's hard to believe that they're still friends after everything that's *passed between* them. **b** : to end or go away ▪ She couldn't let the moment

P

pass (away) without saying something. ▪ This crisis will soon *pass*. [=will soon be over] ▪ A storm had just *passed*. ▪ They waited until it was clear that the danger had *passed*. ▪ They were happy once, but that time has *passed*. [=that time is over] ▪ The era of the traveling salesman has ***passed into history***. [=traveling salesmen no longer exist]

9 [*no obj*] : to be done, said, etc., without producing a response ▪ I disagreed with what he said, but I let it *pass*. [=I did not say anything in response to his remark] ▪ She let his remark *pass* without comment.

10 [*no obj*] **a** : to not take, accept, or use something that is offered to you ▪ Thanks for the offer, but I'll *pass*. — often + *on* ▪ He *passed on* the cake. [=he did not eat any cake] ▪ I think I'll *pass on* going with you. **b** : to decide not to do something at a particular point in a game (such as a card game) when it is your turn ▪ "I bid three of hearts." "I *pass*."

11 a : to complete (a test, class, etc.) successfully [+ *obj*] He failed his driver's test the first time he took it, but he *passed* it the second time. ▪ I almost didn't *pass* my French class this semester. [*no obj*] "How did you do on the test?" "I *passed*!" **b** [+ *obj*] : to decide that (someone) has passed an examination or course of study ▪ The teacher said she couldn't *pass* me because I failed all of my tests.

12 a [+ *obj*] : to officially approve (a law, bill, etc.) ▪ Congress *passed* a law banning the sale of automatic rifles. ▪ The measure was *passed* by both the House and the Senate. ▪ We've been trying to get this legislation *passed* for several months now. **b** *chiefly US* : to become approved by (a legislature) [+ *obj*] The measure *passed* both the House and the Senate. ▪ The bill *passed* the House but was defeated/rejected by the Senate. [*no obj*] The proposal *passed* (into law). ▪ The bill failed to *pass* in the Senate.

13 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to say or state (something) especially in an official way ▪ Before ***passing sentence*** [=announcing the punishment], the judge commented on the seriousness of the crime. ▪ The court is now ready to ***pass judgment***. ▪ It would be premature to ***pass judgment on*** [=to state an opinion on] his place in history. ▪ Don't *pass judgment on* me [=don't criticize me] until you know all the facts.

14 [+ *obj*] : to go beyond (a number or amount) — usually used with *mark* ▪ It's an extremely successful movie that has just *passed* [=*exceeded, surpassed*] the $100 million *mark*. [=it has earned more than $100 million] ▪ I've *passed* the half-century *mark*. [=I am over 50 years old]

15 [*no obj*] : to change from one state or form to another ▪ The water *passes* from a liquid to a gas. ▪ *passing* through the different stages of human development

16 [*no obj*] : to be good enough : to be adequate ▪ The work isn't perfect, but it ***will pass***. [=*will do*]

17 [+ *obj*] : to illegally use (checks, bills, etc., with no real value) as money ▪ They were charged with *passing* bad checks. ▪ He was trying to *pass* counterfeit money.

18 [+ *obj*] : to have (something) come out from your body ▪ He had been *passing* blood in his urine. [=blood had been appearing in his urine] ▪ *pass* a kidney stone — see also *pass gas* at ¹GAS, *pass water* at ¹WATER

19 [*no obj*] : to die — used as a polite way to avoid saying the word "die" ▪ I'm sorry, but your grandfather has *passed*. — see also PASS AWAY, PASS ON (below)

come to pass see ¹COME

pass as [*phrasal verb*] **1 *pass as (someone or something)*** : to cause people to believe that you are (someone or something that you are not) ▪ He thought that growing a mustache would help him *pass as* an adult. ▪ Your mom could *pass as* your sister! **2 *pass as (something)*** : to be accepted or regarded as (something) ▪ the ancient practices that once *passed as* [=*passed for*] science

pass away [*phrasal verb*] : to die — used as a polite way to avoid saying the word "die" ▪ Her father *passed away*.

pass by [*phrasal verb*] ***pass (someone) by*** : to happen without being noticed or acted upon by (someone) ▪ Don't let this opportunity *pass* (you) *by*! ▪ I realized that I was letting life *pass* me *by*. — see also ¹PASS 1a (above)

pass down [*phrasal verb*] ***pass (something) down or pass down (something)*** : to give (something) to a younger person especially within the same family ▪ She will *pass down* her diamond ring to her niece. ▪ It's a family recipe *passed down* [=*handed down*] from my great-grandmother. ▪ The painting is a family heirloom that has been *passed down* through the generations.

pass for [*phrasal verb*] ***pass for (something)*** : to be accepted or regarded as (something) ▪ I can't believe the garbage that's *passing for* [=*passing as*] art these days. ▪ the tasteless soup that was supposed to *pass for* our dinner ▪ What *passes for* entertainment around here?

pass in [*phrasal verb*] ***pass (something) in or pass in (something)*** : to give (something) to a person who will review it ▪ Students should *pass* their papers *in* before they leave. ▪ He *passed in* [=*handed in*] his test.

pass muster see ²MUSTER

pass off [*phrasal verb*] **1 *pass (someone or something) off as (someone or something) or pass off (someone or something) as (someone or something)*** : to cause people to wrongly believe that someone or something is someone or something else ▪ amateurs *passing* themselves *off as* professionals ▪ He managed to *pass* himself *off as* the son of the famous actor. ▪ She *passed* the poem *off as* her own. ▪ They tried to *pass* it *off as* an original painting, but I suspected it was a copy. ▪ a cheap piece of glass *passed off as* a diamond **2** *Brit* : to happen or take place in a particular way ▪ The event *passed off* [=*went off*] with no major incidents. ▪ The evening *passed off* quietly.

pass on [*phrasal verb*] : to die — used as a polite way to avoid saying the word "die" ▪ Her parents have *passed on*.

pass out [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to fall asleep or become unconscious ▪ They both *passed out* in front of the TV. ▪ I felt like I was going to *pass out* from exhaustion. ▪ He drank until he *passed out*. ▪ Someone was *passed out* on the floor. [=someone was lying unconscious on the floor] **2 *pass out (something) or pass (something) out*** : to give (something) to several or many people ▪ They *passed out* [=*handed out, distributed*] copies of the newsletter. ▪ The teacher hasn't finished *passing out* the tests yet. ▪ She *passed out* flyers at the grocery store.

pass over [*phrasal verb*] **1 *pass over (someone) or pass (someone) over*** : to not choose (someone) for a job, position, etc. ▪ When it came time to select the recipient of the award, the committee once again *passed* him *over*. [=the committee did not give him an award] ▪ The quarterback was *passed over* by other teams. — often + *for* ▪ She was *passed over for* another promotion. **2 *pass over (something) or pass (something) over*** : to leave out (something) ▪ *passing over* [=*skipping*] the more boring parts of the book : to not discuss or deal with (something) ▪ Let's *pass over* the technical details and get straight to the parts that really interest you.

pass the buck see ¹BUCK

pass the hat see HAT

pass the torch see ¹TORCH

pass up [*phrasal verb*] ***pass up (something) or pass (something) up*** : to not take or accept (something that is offered to you) ▪ We couldn't afford to *pass up* her offer. ▪ Her offer was too good to *pass up*.

pass your lips **1** *of words* : to come out of your mouth : to be spoken ▪ The word "quit" has never *passed her lips*. [=she has never said the word "quit"] **2** *of food or drink* : to go into your mouth : to be eaten or drunk ▪ He refused to let alcohol *pass his lips*. [=he never drank alcohol]

²pass *noun, pl* **passes** [*count*]

1 *sports* : an act of throwing, hitting, or kicking a ball or puck to a teammate ▪ throwing/making/completing a perfect *pass* to a teammate ▪ a forward *pass* ▪ He caught a 20-yard *pass* from Johnson. ▪ The quarterback threw two touchdown *passes* in the first half of the game. — see also BOUNCE PASS, SCREEN PASS, SHOVEL PASS

2 : a card or ticket which shows that you are allowed to enter or leave a particular place or to ride a vehicle ▪ a one-day/weekend/season *pass* to the amusement park ▪ Each new student will be given a ***bus pass***. [=a ticket that permits you to ride the bus] ▪ We won ***backstage passes*** [=cards that allow you to go behind the stage] for tonight's concert. ▪ (*US*) You have to get a ***hall pass*** [=a card that shows you have permission to be out of class during class time] from the teacher. — see also BOARDING PASS

3 : a single, complete set of actions that are done together as a stage in a process ▪ The machine is able to print on both sides in a single *pass*. ▪ I did another *pass* to check for any spelling mistakes in my essay. ▪ The error was discovered in the next *pass* through the data.

4 : an act of moving over a place ▪ The planes made several *passes* over the area. ▪ The pilot spotted the missing group on a second *pass*.

5 *chiefly Brit* : a grade which shows that you have passed a test or class ▪ I got a *pass* in my History class. ▪ The required ***pass mark*** was 75 percent.

make a pass at : to do or say something that clearly shows

you want to begin a romantic or sexual relationship with (someone) ▪ He *made a pass at* his wife's friend.
– compare [3]PASS

[3]pass *noun, pl* **passes**
1 [*count*] : a low place in a mountain range where a road or path goes through ▪ a mountain *pass* = a *pass* through the mountains
2 [*singular*] *somewhat formal* : a usually bad situation or condition ▪ We had come to a very strange *pass*. ▪ What brought them to such a sorry *pass*?
– compare [2]PASS

pass•able /ˈpæsəbəl, *Brit* ˈpɑːsəbəl/ *adj*
1 : capable of being passed, crossed, or traveled on ▪ The main road is *passable* but most others are still covered with snow. ▪ The river is *passable* during the summer months.
2 : good enough : adequate or satisfactory ▪ He did a *passable* job with the assignment. ▪ She plays *passable* golf but prefers tennis. ▪ His Italian is *passable*.
– **pass•ably** /ˈpæsəbli, *Brit* ˈpɑːsəbli/ *adv* ▪ She speaks French *passably*. ▪ He gets along *passably* (well) with his in-laws.

pas•sage /ˈpæsɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-sag•es**
1 [*count*] : a long, narrow space that connects one place to another ▪ They escaped through a secret underground *passage*. [=*passageway*] ▪ (*Brit*) Her office is at the end of the *passage*. [=*hallway*]
2 [*count*] : a narrow space that people or things can move through ▪ We squeezed through a narrow *passage* between the rocks. ▪ Special ships clear *passages* through the ice. ▪ The medicine makes breathing easier by opening nasal *passages*.
3 : an act of moving or passing from one place or state to another [*noncount*] They controlled the *passage* of goods through their territory. ▪ He guaranteed us safe *passage*. [=he promised that we could safely travel through the area] ▪ the *passage* of food through the digestive system ▪ the *passage* of air into and out of the lungs ▪ the *passage* from life to death ▪ the *passage* of the seasons ▪ He left after the *passage* of a few hours. ▪ With ***the passage of time***, the number of children suffering with the disease has decreased dramatically. [*singular*] a child's *passage* into adulthood — see also RITE OF PASSAGE
4 [*count*] **a** : a usually short section of a book, poem, speech, etc. ▪ He quoted a *passage* from the Bible. ▪ The book's main theme is reflected in the following *passage*. ▪ long descriptive *passages* **b** : a usually short section of a piece of music ▪ complex musical *passages*
5 : an act of officially approving a bill, law, etc. [*noncount*] The *passage* [=*enactment*] of this law will save lives. ▪ the *passage* of the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ▪ government leaders who are determined to get *passage* of their bills [*singular*] a bill's *passage* into law
6 *old-fashioned* **a** [*count*] : a voyage or journey usually on a boat ▪ a long ocean *passage* **b** [*noncount*] : the right to travel on a boat, airplane, etc. ▪ They booked *passage* on a ship/train bound for Mexico.

pas•sage•way /ˈpæsɪʤˌweɪ/ *noun, pl* **-ways** [*count*] : a long, narrow space that connects one place to another ▪ An underground *passageway* [=*corridor*] connects the two buildings.

pass•book /ˈpæsˌbʊk, *Brit* ˈpɑːsˌbʊk/ *noun, pl* **-books** [*count*] : BANKBOOK

pas•sé /pæˈseɪ, *Brit* ˈpɑːˌseɪ/ *adj* : no longer fashionable or popular ▪ That style of music is now considered *passé*.

pas•sel /ˈpæsəl/ *noun, pl* **-sels** [*count*] *US, informal* : a large number or group of people or things — usually singular ▪ A *passel* of children waited in the hall. ▪ a *passel* of problems

pas•sen•ger /ˈpæsn̩ʤɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*]
1 : a person who is traveling from one place to another in a car, bus, train, ship, airplane, etc., and who is not driving or working on it ▪ There were two *passengers* in the car in addition to the driver. — often used before another noun ▪ a *passenger* train/ship [=a train/ship that carries passengers]
2 *Brit* : a person in a group who does not do as much work as others ▪ There's no room for *passengers* on this project; everybody must do his share of the work.

passenger car *noun, pl* ~ **cars** [*count*] *US* : a railroad car that carries passengers — called also (*Brit*) *carriage*

passenger seat *noun, pl* ~ **seats** [*count*] : the front seat of a vehicle (such as a car) where a passenger sits

pass•er /ˈpæsɚ, *Brit* ˈpɑːsə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : someone or something that passes something ▪ a *passer* of bad checks; *especially* : a player who passes a ball or puck to a teammate in a sport ▪ a quarterback who is an excellent *passer*

pass•er•by /ˌpæsɚˈbaɪ, *Brit* ˌpɑːsəˈbaɪ/ *noun, pl* **pass•ers-by** /ˌpæsɚzˈbaɪ, *Brit* ˌpɑːsəzˈbaɪ/ [*count*] : a person who walks by something on a street or road ▪ A *passerby* saw the accident and stopped to help. ▪ *Passersby* were asked if they were registered to vote.

pass–fail /ˈpæsˈfeɪl, *Brit* ˈpɑːsˈfeɪl/ *adj, US* : using a system of grading in which the grades "pass" and "fail" are used instead of traditional grades like "A," "B," and "C" ▪ a *pass-fail* class/test

[1]pass•ing /ˈpæsɪŋ, *Brit* ˈpɑːsɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the act of moving toward and beyond something — usually + *of* ▪ I could hear the *passing of* a distant train. [=I could hear a distant train passing]
2 — used to talk about the movement of time; usually + *of* ▪ They celebrate the *passing of* each season. ▪ She grew stronger with the *passing of* each year. ▪ We lament the *passing of* an era. ▪ Only ***the passing of time*** will help her deal with this tragedy.
3 *formal* : a person's death ▪ After her husband's *passing*, she moved to a smaller house. ▪ We all mourned his *passing*.
4 : the act of officially approving a bill, law, etc. ▪ the *passing* [=*passage*] of the bill through Congress
in passing : in a brief way while discussing something else ▪ She mentioned *in passing* that she was studying law. ▪ The report notes the incident only *in passing*.

[2]passing *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : moving past someone or something ▪ Someone called out from a *passing* car. ▪ She sells flowers to *passing* motorists. ▪ a *passing* ship/airplane/train
2 — used to talk about time that is going past ▪ I love you more with each *passing* day. ▪ with every *passing* year
3 : lasting for only a short time ▪ Let's hope that these shoes are just a *passing* fad. ▪ a *passing* phase in childhood
4 : done or made quickly ▪ He made a few *passing* [=*cursory*] remarks about his work at the hospital. ▪ We gave the restaurant a *passing* [=*quick*] glance before moving on. ▪ She never gave the matter more than a *passing* thought. ▪ Her assistants get only a *passing* mention at the end of the article.
5 : not very strong or thorough : SLIGHT ▪ She has only a *passing* acquaintance with the subject. ▪ I admit that I have only a *passing* interest in sports. ▪ You can see a *passing* resemblance between him and his father.
6 : showing that you completed a test or class in an acceptable way ▪ She completed the class with a ***passing grade/mark*** of 65 percent.
7 *sports* : relating to the skill of throwing, hitting, or kicking a ball or puck to a teammate ▪ shooting and *passing* skills ▪ The football team needs to improve its ***passing game***. [=its ability to pass the ball]

passing lane *noun, pl* ~ **lanes** [*count*] *US* : a part of a road or highway that drivers use to pass other vehicles

pas•sion /ˈpæʃən/ *noun, pl* **-sions**
1 a : a strong feeling of enthusiasm or excitement for something or about doing something [*count*] Everyone could see the *passion* in his approach to the work. ▪ a controversy that has stirred *passions* in Congress [*noncount*] Her performance is full of *passion* and originality. ▪ She spoke with *passion* about preserving the building. **b** : a strong feeling (such as anger) that causes you to act in a dangerous way [*noncount*] The crime was committed in a fit of *passion*. ▪ a crime of *passion* [*count*] destructive *passions*
2 : a strong sexual or romantic feeling for someone [*noncount*] — often + *for* ▪ He had never felt such *passion* [=*love, devotion*] *for* anyone but her. [*count*] sexual *passions*
3 [*count*] **a** : something that you enjoy or love doing very much ▪ Music/golf/writing has always been his *passion*. **b** : a strong feeling of love *for* something ▪ She developed a *passion for* opera. ▪ a student with a *passion for* literature
4 ***the Passion*** : the sufferings of Jesus Christ between the night of the Last Supper and his death ▪ *the Passion* of Christ
with a passion *informal* — used to say that you strongly dislike someone or something ▪ I hate him *with a passion*.
– **pas•sion•less** /ˈpæʃənləs/ *adj* ▪ a *passionless* marriage/performance/speech

pas•sion•ate /ˈpæʃənət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having, showing, or expressing strong emotions or beliefs ▪ a *passionate* coach/performance ▪ He gave a *passionate* speech on tax reform. ▪ She has a *passionate* interest in animal rights. ▪ She is *passionate* about art/music/sports. ▪ We were moved by his *passionate* plea for forgiveness.
2 : expressing or relating to strong sexual or romantic feel-

ings ▪ a long, *passionate* kiss ▪ a *passionate* love affair – **pas·sion·ate·ly** *adv* ▪ She spoke *passionately* about animal rights. ▪ They kissed *passionately*. ▪ They were *passionately* opposed to the war.

pas·sion·flow·er /ˈpæʃənˌflawɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a tall plant with large flowers and berries that are often eaten as fruit

passion fruit *noun, pl* **passion fruit** *or* **passion fruits** [*count*] : a small round fruit that has many seeds and is often used to make juice

passion play *or* **Passion play** *noun, pl* ~ **plays** [*count*] : a play about the suffering and death of Jesus Christ

pas·sive /ˈpæsɪv/ *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] — used to describe someone who allows things to happen or who accepts what other people do or decide without trying to change anything ▪ His *passive* acceptance of the decision surprised us. ▪ In her books, women are often portrayed in *passive* roles.

2 *grammar* **a** *of a verb or voice* : showing that the subject of a sentence is acted on or affected by the verb ▪ "Hits" in "She hits the ball" is active, while "hit" in "The ball was hit" is *passive*. ▪ In "He was hit by the ball," "hit" is a *passive* verb. ✧ The ***passive voice*** is a way of writing or speaking that uses passive verbs. ▪ The sentence "The house was destroyed by the tornado" is written in the *passive voice*. — compare ACTIVE **b** : containing a passive verb form ▪ a *passive* sentence – **pas·sive·ly** *adv* ▪ He waited *passively* for me to decide. – **pas·siv·i·ty** /pæˈsɪvəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She was angered by the *passivity* of her coworkers.

passive resistance *noun* [*noncount*] : a way of opposing the government without using violence especially by refusing to obey laws

passive smoking *noun* [*noncount*] : the breathing in of cigarette smoke from people who are smoking nearby

pass·key /ˈpæsˌkiː, *Brit* ˈpɑːsˌkiː/ *noun, pl* **-keys** [*count*] : a key that opens many locks : MASTER KEY

Pass·over /ˈpæsˌoʊvɚ, *Brit* ˈpɑːsˌəʊvə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a Jewish holiday in March or April that celebrates the freeing of the Jews from slavery in Egypt

pass·port /ˈpæsˌpoɚt, *Brit* ˈpɑːsˌpɔːt/ *noun, pl* **-ports** [*count*]

1 : an official document issued by the government of a country that identifies someone as a citizen of that country and that is usually necessary when entering or leaving a country

2 : something that allows a person to achieve something — + *to* ▪ Education can be a *passport to* a successful future.

pass·word /ˈpæsˌwɚd, *Brit* ˈpɑːsˌwɜːd/ *noun, pl* **-words** [*count*]

1 : a secret word or phrase that a person must know before being given permission to enter a place

2 : a secret series of numbers or letters that allows you to use a computer system ▪ You need to enter your *password* to check your e-mail.

[1]past /ˈpæst, *Brit* ˈpɑːst/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* : having existed in a time before the present : from, done, or used in an earlier time ▪ The museum displays artifacts from *past* [=*earlier*] civilizations. ▪ She was hired based on her ***past experience*** in sales.

2 *always used before a noun* — used to refer to a time that has gone by recently ▪ He has worked there for the *past* few months. ▪ I spoke with him this *past* [=*last*] weekend.

3 *always used before a noun* — used to say what someone or something was in the past ▪ She is a *past* [=*former*] president of the club. ▪ Several *past* employees were interviewed for the story. ▪ *past* champions

4 — used to describe something that ended or was completed in the past ▪ The time is *past* for apologies. ▪ In winters *past*, we have had much more snow. = In *past* winters, we have had much more snow.

[2]past *prep*

1 : at the farther side of (something) : beyond (a particular place) ▪ The office is two blocks *past* the intersection. ▪ Turn left just *past* the stairs.

2 : up to and beyond (a person or place) ▪ We drove *past* the house. ▪ I must have walked right *past* her. ▪ He looked *past* me to the next customer.

3 : later than (a time) ▪ We need to leave by half *past* two. [=2:30] ▪ It was *past* [=*after*, (*Brit*) *gone*] five o'clock by the time we got home. ▪ It's *past* his bedtime. ▪ The bill is ***past due***. [=it is late; it should have been paid before now]

4 a : older than (an age) ▪ Now that he is *past* 60, he's thinking about retiring. **b** : beyond the age for (something) ▪ She is *past* playing with dolls.

5 : beyond or no longer at (a particular point) ▪ The milk is *past* its expiration date. ▪ The daffodils are *past* blooming. ▪ They tried marriage counseling, but they were already *past* the point of reconciling. ▪ The house is a mess, but she is *past* caring. [=she doesn't care] ▪ As a singer, he is ***past his prime***. [=he is no longer as good at singing as he once was]

I wouldn't put it past (someone) — used to say that you would not be surprised if someone did something bad ▪ I *wouldn't put it past him* to lie. ▪ I don't know if she ever cheated on an exam, but *I wouldn't put it past her*.

past it *Brit, informal* : too old to do something or to be useful ▪ At the age of 45, he is *past it* as a football player.

[3]past *noun, pl* **pasts**

1 [*noncount*] : an earlier time : the time before the present ▪ *Past*, present, and future are all linked together. — usually used with *the* ▪ happy memories of *the past* ▪ ***In the past***, there was a company luncheon every month. ▪ Try not to worry about it anymore. It's *in the past*. ▪ She wants to forget about *the past*. = She wants to ***put the past behind her***. ▪ The disease is mostly ***a thing of the past***. [=something that no longer exists] ▪ She had some financial problems, but that is ***all in the past***. [=she has no financial problems now] — see also *live in the past* at [1]LIVE

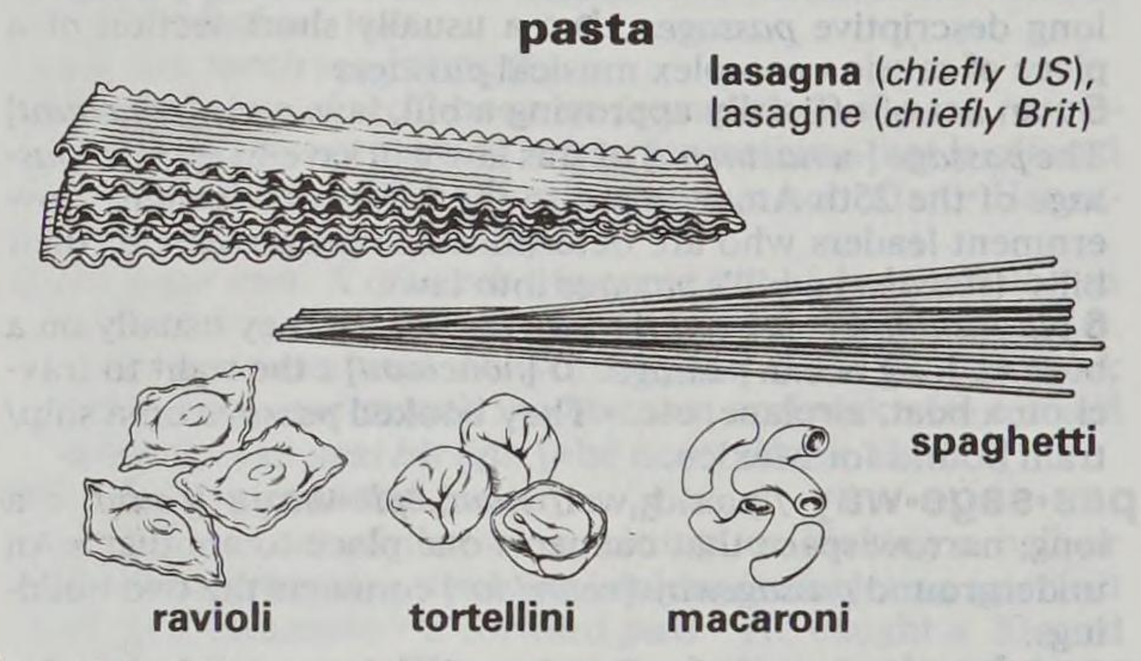
2 [*count*] : the events of a person's life, of a place, etc., before the present time — usually singular ▪ Do you know anything about her *past*? ▪ His *past* caught up with him when a former coworker recognized him. ▪ He has an interesting *past*. ▪ The city's *past* is full of interesting events. ▪ We learned about the building's *past* as a textile factory.

3 ***the past*** *grammar* : PAST TENSE ▪ *The past* of "walk" is "walked."

blast from the past see [1]BLAST

[4]past *adv* : to and beyond a certain point or time ▪ He drove *past* [=*by*] slowly so we could look at the house. ▪ A deer ran *past*. ▪ Several weeks went *past* before we heard from her.

pas·ta /ˈpɑːstə, *Brit* ˈpæstə/ *noun, pl* **-tas** : a food made from a mixture of flour, water, and sometimes eggs that is formed into different shapes (such as thin strips, tubes, or shells) and usually boiled [*noncount*] They ordered *pasta* with meat sauce. ▪ *pasta* salad/sauce [*count*] Breads and *pastas* are high in carbohydrates.



[1]paste /ˈpeɪst/ *noun*

1 [*singular*] : a soft, wet mixture of usually a powder and a liquid ▪ Stir the flour and water to a *paste*. — see also TOOTHPASTE

2 [*noncount*] : a type of glue that is used to make things stick together ▪ The children used *paste* and construction paper to make Mother's Day cards. ▪ wallpaper *paste*

3 a [*noncount*] : a soft, smooth food that is made by grinding something (such as tomatoes or nuts) into very small pieces ▪ canned tomato *paste* ▪ a cake with an almond *paste* filling ▪ anchovy/bean *paste* **b** [*singular*] : a type of dough made with flour and butter that is used in baking ▪ Stir the ingredients to form a *paste*.

4 [*noncount*] : a type of glass that is used to make artificial gems ▪ The necklace contains real gems and *paste*.

[2]paste *verb* **pastes**; **past·ed**; **past·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to stick (something) to or onto something by using paste ▪ I *pasted* the edges of the paper together. ▪ He cut out the newspaper article and *pasted* it into a scrapbook.

2 : to put (something cut or copied from a computer document) into another part of the document or into another document ▪ After you select the text with your mouse, you can cut it and then *paste* it at the beginning of the paragraph.

• You can ***cut and paste*** the picture into your file. — see also CUT-AND-PASTE
– compare [3]PASTE

[3]paste *verb* **pastes; pasted; pasting** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to beat or defeat (someone or something) very badly • They got *pasted* 10–0. — compare [2]PASTE
– **past•ing** /'peɪstɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] — usually singular • They got/took a real *pasting* from the opposition.

pas•tel /pæ'stɛl, *Brit* 'pæstl̩/ *noun, pl* **-tels**
1 a : a type of chalk made from a powdery substance that is used for drawing and comes in many different colors [*count*] — usually plural • She asked for a box of *pastels* for her birthday. • The artist works mostly ***in pastels***. [=the materials the artist uses are mostly pastels] [*noncount*] a drawing/portrait done in *pastel* = a *pastel* drawing/portrait **b** : a drawing that is done using pastels • She has a collection of *pastels*.
2 [*count*] : a pale or light color • She prefers a *pastel* like light yellow. • a *pastel* sweater • The room is painted in a *pastel* shade of blue. — usually plural • She wears a lot of *pastels*.

pas•teur•i•za•tion *also Brit* **pas•teur•i•sa•tion** /ˌpæstʃərə'zeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌpɑːstʃəˌraɪ'zeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a process in which a liquid (such as milk or cream) is heated to a temperature that kills harmful germs and then cooled quickly
– **pas•teur•ize** *also Brit* **pas•teur•ise** /'pæstʃəˌraɪz, *Brit* 'pɑːstʃəˌraɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es; -ized; -iz•ing** [+ *obj*] • Dairy products are often *pasteurized*. • *pasteurized* milk/cream

pas•tiche /pæ'stiːʃ/ *noun, pl* **-tich•es**
1 : something (such as a piece of writing, music, etc.) that imitates the style of someone or something else [*count*] His earlier building designs were *pastiches* based on classical forms. [*noncount*] With this work she goes beyond *pastiche*.
2 [*count*] **a** : a piece of writing, music, etc., that is made up of selections from different works • The research paper was essentially a *pastiche* made up of passages from different sources. **b** : a mixture of different things • The house is decorated in a *pastiche* of Asian styles.

pas•time /'pæsˌtaɪm, *Brit* 'pɑːsˌtaɪm/ *noun, pl* **-times** [*count*] : an activity that you enjoy doing during your free time • Her favorite *pastime* [=*hobby*] is gardening. • Baseball has been a national *pastime* for years.

past master *noun, pl* ~ **-ters** [*count*] : a person who has done something many times before and has become very skilled at doing it : EXPERT • He's a *past master* at finding ways to get out of trouble. • They are *past masters* of the art of propaganda.

pas•tor /'pæstɚ, *Brit* 'pɑːstə/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : a minister or priest in charge of a church or parish • We have a new *pastor* at our church.

pas•to•ral /'pæstərəl, *Brit* 'pɑːstərəl/ *adj*
1 : of or relating to the countryside or to the lives of people who live in the country • The house is situated in a charming *pastoral* setting. • Her favorite painting in the collection is a *pastoral* landscape. • *pastoral* scenes • a *pastoral* poem
2 : of or relating to the spiritual care or guidance of people who are members of a religious group • The bishop outlined the church's views in a *pastoral* letter. • *pastoral* counseling
3 : of or relating to the pastor of a church • *pastoral* duties/responsibilities

past participle *noun, pl* ~ **-ciples** [*count*] *grammar* : the form of the verb that is used with "have" in perfect tenses and with "be" in passive constructions • The verbs "thrown" in "the ball has been thrown" and "raised" in "many hands were raised" are *past participles*.

past perfect *noun*
the past perfect *grammar* : the form of the verb that is used in referring to an action that was completed by a particular time in the past ✧ The *past perfect* in English is formed by using *had* and the past participle of a verb, as in "She had visited there once before."

pas•tra•mi /pə'strɑːmi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : highly seasoned smoked beef that is usually eaten in sandwiches • hot *pastrami* on rye • He ordered a *pastrami* sandwich.

past•ry /'peɪstri/ *noun, pl* **-ries**
1 [*noncount*] : dough that is used to make pies and other baked goods • He worked on the filling while I prepared the *pastry*. • a *pastry* shell — see also PUFF PASTRY
2 [*count*] : a small, baked food made from pastry • She had a *pastry* and coffee for breakfast. • a *pastry* shop — see also DANISH PASTRY

past tense *noun, pl* ~ **tenses** [*count*] *grammar* : a verb tense that is used to refer to the past

[1]pas•ture /'pæstʃɚ, *Brit* 'pɑːstʃə/ *noun, pl* **-tures** : a large area of land where animals feed on the grass [*count*] The horses were grazing in the *pasture*. [*noncount*] Most of their land is *pasture*. • She put/sent/turned the sheep ***out to pasture***. [=she brought the sheep to a pasture to eat the grass]
greener pastures *or Brit* ***pastures new*** : a new and better place or situation • He left for *greener pastures* after working here for 10 years. • She is looking for *pastures new*.
put (someone) out to pasture : to force (someone) to leave a job because of old age • I'm not ready to be *put out to pasture* yet. — sometimes used of things • I *put* my old computer *out to pasture*. [=got rid of my old computer]

[2]pasture *verb* **-tures; -tured; -tur•ing** [+ *obj*] : to put (an animal) in a pasture to feed on the grass • The horses are *pastured* on several acres of land.

pas•ture•land /'pæstʃɚˌlænd, *Brit* 'pɑːstʃəˌlænd/ *noun, pl* **-lands** [*count, noncount*] : a large area of land where animals feed on the grass • The area between the mountains is mostly *pastureland*.

[1]pasty /'peɪsti/ *adj* **past•i•er; -est**
1 : resembling paste • The mixture has a *pasty* consistency.
2 : pale and unhealthy in appearance • She has a *pasty* complexion. • You look a little *pasty*. Are you feeling OK?

[2]pas•ty /'pæsti/ *noun, pl* **pas•ties** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a small pie that usually contains meat — see also CORNISH PASTY

pasty–faced /'peɪstiˌfeɪst/ *adj, informal + often disapproving* : having a face that looks pale and unhealthy • I don't know what she sees in that *pasty-faced* loser.

PA system /ˌpiː'eɪ-/ *noun, pl* ~ **-tems** [*count*] : [2]PA 1

[1]pat /'pæt/ *verb* **pats; pat•ted; pat•ting** [+ *obj*]
1 : to lightly touch (someone or something) with your hand usually several times in order to show affection or approval or to provide comfort • The child gently *patted* the dog's head. • He *patted* my knee and told me everything would be fine. — often + *on* • He *patted* me *on* my knee.
2 a : to flatten, smooth, or shape (something) by lightly pressing on it with your hand • He *patted* his hair down. • She *patted* the dough into a square. **b** : to lightly press (something) several times until it is dry • He *patted* the lettuce dry with a paper towel.
pat down [*phrasal verb*] ***pat (someone) down or pat down (someone)*** *US* : to move your hands over (someone) in order to search for something (such as a weapon) that may be hidden in clothing • The police *patted* the suspect *down* at the scene.
pat (someone) on the back : to praise or give credit to (someone) for doing good work • They deserve to be *patted on the back* for the way they've handled this problem. • You should *pat yourselves on the back* for doing such a great job.

[2]pat *noun, pl* **pats** [*count*]
1 : an act of lightly touching someone or something with your hand to show affection or approval • The teacher smiled and gave the boy a *pat* on the head. [=the teacher patted the boy on the head] • She gave the dog a quick *pat*.
2 : a small, flat, usually square piece of something (such as butter) • a *pat* of butter
a pat on the back *informal* : a show of praise or approval • You all deserve *a pat on the back* [=you all deserve to be praised] for making this possible. • You did a great job, so give yourself *a pat on the back*.

[3]pat *adv* : learned completely or perfectly • (*US*) She has her lines ***down pat***. • (*Brit*) He had his story ***off pat***.
stand pat *US* : to refuse to change your opinion or decision • Despite our objections, they are going to *stand pat* with their decision.

[4]pat *adj, disapproving* : said or done without any real thought or effort to be truthful or original • a *pat* response • The movie's *pat* ending was a disappointment. • His explanation was too *pat* to be believable.

pat–a–cake *variant spelling of* PATTY-CAKE

[1]patch /'pætʃ/ *noun, pl* **patch•es** [*count*]
1 : a piece of material that is used to cover a hole in something or to provide extra protection to an area • His pants have *patches* on the knees. • a jacket with brown *patches* on the elbows • He put a *patch* over the hole in the tire tube.
2 a : a piece of material that is worn over your eye because of injury or for medical reasons **b** : a piece of material that contains a drug and that is worn on your skin to allow the drug to slowly enter your body over a long period of time • She wears a nicotine *patch* to help her quit smoking.

3 : a small spot or area that is different from the surrounding area ▪ There were icy *patches* [=areas of ice] on the road. ▪ Fog *patches* made driving difficult. ▪ He is developing a bald *patch* on the back of his head. ▪ The cat has black *patches* on its forehead and tail. ▪ The chair's original paint is still visible ***in patches*** [=in spots] — often + *of* ▪ I could see a *patch of* blue sky through the clouds. ▪ There are *patches of* weeds all over the lawn.

4 : a small area of land where a particular fruit or vegetable grows ▪ a pumpkin/strawberry *patch*

5 : a period of time ▪ He's going through a bad/difficult/rough *patch* [=*spell*] right now.

6 *US* : a piece of cloth with words or pictures that is sewn on clothing as a decoration or as part of a uniform : BADGE

7 *computers* : a program that corrects or updates an existing program ▪ a software *patch*

8 *Brit, informal* : an area that someone knows well, works or lives in, or comes from ▪ He knows everything that happens in/on his *patch*.

be not a patch on *Brit, informal* : to be much less good, appealing, impressive, etc., than (someone or something) ▪ The new chairman *isn't a patch on* his predecessor.

[2]patch *verb* **patches; patched; patch•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to cover a hole in (something) with a piece of material ▪ She *patched* (the hole in) the blanket. ▪ The fence needs to be *patched*. ▪ He *patched* (up) the roof.

2 : to connect (a person, telephone call, etc.) to a communication system especially for a short period of time ▪ They *patched* him into the conference call. — often + *through* ▪ The operator *patched* the call/caller *through*.

patch together [*phrasal verb*] ***patch (something) together*** *or* ***patch together (something)*** : to put (something) together usually in a quick or careless way ▪ She *patched* a meal *together* from what was in the cupboard. ▪ They quickly *patched together* a new plan.

patch up [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***patch (something) up*** *or* ***patch up (something)*** : to deal with (a problem, disagreement, etc.) in order to improve or repair a relationship ▪ They finally *patched up* [=*settled*] their differences. ▪ He is going to try to ***patch things up*** with his girlfriend. **2** ***patch (something or someone) up*** *or* ***patch up (something or someone)*** : to give quick and usually temporary medical treatment to (someone or something) ▪ The doctor *patched* him *up*, so he's going to be as good as new. ▪ She *patched up* his wounded arm. — see also [2]PATCH 1 (above)

patch•ou•li /ˈpætʃəli, pəˈtʃu:li/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a perfume that is made from the oil of a southeast Asian plant

patch•work /ˈpætʃˌwɚk/ *noun*

1 [*singular*] : something that is made up of different things ▪ The valley is a *patchwork* of family farms. ▪ A *patchwork* of laws prevent the land from being developed. ▪ a *patchwork* system of laws

2 [*noncount*] : pieces of cloth of different colors and shapes that are sewn together in a pattern ▪ a *patchwork* quilt/bedspread

patchy /ˈpætʃi/ *adj* **patch•i•er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*]

1 : having some parts that are good and some that are bad ▪ The lawn is kind of *patchy* this year. ▪ a *patchy* performance

2 : existing or seen in some areas but not others ▪ *Patchy* fog made driving difficult.

3 : not thorough or complete enough to be useful ▪ His knowledge of the language is *patchy*. ▪ She has only a *patchy* understanding of his condition.

pate /ˈpeɪt/ *noun, pl* **pates** [*count*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : the top of a person's head ▪ his bald *pate*

pâ•té *also* **pa•te** /pɑˈteɪ, *Brit* ˈpæteɪ/ *noun, pl* **-tés** *also* **-tes** [*count, noncount*] : liver or meat that has been chopped into very small pieces and that is usually spread on bread or crackers ▪ liver *pâté*

pa•tel•la /pəˈtɛlə/ *noun, pl* **-lae** /-li/ *or* **-las** [*count*] *technical* : KNEECAP — see picture at HUMAN

[1]pat•ent *adj, always used before a noun*

1 /ˈpætn̩t, *Brit* ˈpeɪtn̩t/ : of, relating to, or concerned with patents ▪ a *patent* law/lawyer ▪ The company settled a *patent* dispute last year. ▪ the licensing of *patent* rights ▪ a *patent* application ▪ They were sued for *patent* infringement. ▪ a *patent* holder/owner

2 /ˈpeɪtn̩t/ *formal* : obvious or clear ▪ His explanation turned out to be a *patent* lie. ▪ She acted with *patent* disregard for the rules.

– **pat•ent•ly** *adv* ▪ It is *patently* obvious that she is overqualified for the job.

[2]pat•ent /ˈpætn̩t, *Brit* ˈpeɪtn̩t/ *noun, pl* **-ents** : an official document that gives a person or company the right to be the only one that makes or sells a product for a certain period of time [*count*] — often + *on* ▪ The company holds the/a *patent on* the product. ▪ They want to ***take out a patent on*** [=obtain a patent for] the process. — often + *for* ▪ She applied for *patents for* several of her inventions. [*noncount*] The product is protected by *patent*.

[3]pat•ent /ˈpætn̩t, *Brit* ˈpeɪtn̩t/ *verb* **-ents; -ent•ed; -ent•ing** [+ *obj*] : to get a patent for (something) ▪ They *patented* their invention. ▪ The product was *patented* by its inventor. ▪ a *patented* process/drug

pat•ent leather /ˈpætn̩t-, *Brit* ˈpeɪtn̩t-/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of leather that has a hard and shiny surface ▪ shoes made of *patent leather* = *patent-leather* shoes

pa•ter•fa•mil•i•as /ˌpætəfəˈmɪlijəs, *Brit* ˌpeɪtəfəˈmɪliˌæs/ *noun, pl* **pa•tres•fa•mil•i•as** /ˌpeɪˌtri:zfəˈmɪlijəs, *Brit* ˌpeɪˌtri:zfəˈmɪliˌæs/ [*count*] *formal* : a man who is the head of a family

pa•ter•nal /pəˈtɚnl̩/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to a father ▪ He did not neglect his *paternal* responsibilities after the divorce. ▪ He offered them some *paternal* [=*fatherly*] advice.

2 *always used before a noun* : related through the father ▪ his *paternal* grandparents [=the parents of his father] ▪ a *paternal* aunt/uncle — compare MATERNAL

– **pa•ter•nal•ly** *adv* ▪ He smiled at them *paternally*. ▪ *paternally* inherited genes

pa•ter•nal•ism /pəˈtɚnəˌlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] *usually disapproving* : the attitude or actions of a person, organization, etc., that protects people and gives them what they need but does not give them any responsibility or freedom of choice

– **pa•ter•nal•ist** /pəˈtɚnəlɪst/ *or* **pa•ter•nal•is•tic** /pəˌtɚnəˈlɪstɪk/ *adj* ▪ They resent the boss's *paternalistic* attitude.

[1]pa•ter•ni•ty /pəˈtɚnəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the state or fact of being the father of a particular child ▪ He acknowledged *paternity* of her child. [=he admitted that he was the father of her child] ▪ The child's *paternity* was in question. [=people questioned who the child's father was] — compare MATERNITY

[2]paternity *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : relating to the time when a father's child is born ▪ *paternity* rights ▪ Will he be able to take ***paternity leave***? [=time off to take care of a newborn child]

2 : done to prove that a man is the father of a particular child ▪ a *paternity* suit ▪ *paternity* (DNA) tests/testing

path /ˈpæθ, *Brit* ˈpɑ:θ/ *noun, pl* **paths** /ˈpæðz, *Brit* ˈpɑ:ðz/ [*count*]

1 a : a track that is made by people or animals walking over the ground ▪ We followed a winding *path* through the woods. ▪ a steep mountain *path* ▪ The *path* led down the hill. **b** : a track that is specially made for people to walk or ride on ▪ a bike *path* ▪ a paved *path* — see also BRIDLE PATH

2 : the area in front of someone or something that is moving ▪ The car skidded into the *path* of an oncoming truck. ▪ The fire destroyed everything in its *path*. ▪ The cars moved aside to clear a *path* for the ambulance. ▪ He tried to leave but one of the guards blocked his *path*. — see also FLIGHT PATH

3 : a way of living or proceeding that leads to something ▪ the *path* to peace/success ▪ They are heading down a dangerous *path* that could lead to war. ▪ Their older children all became doctors, but their youngest son chose/followed a different (career) *path*. — see also *primrose path* at PRIMROSE

beat a path see [1]BEAT

cross paths see [2]CROSS

lead someone down/up the garden path see [1]LEAD

off the beaten path see BEATEN

take/follow the path of least resistance see RESISTANCE

pa•thet•ic /pəˈθɛtɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : causing feelings of sadness and sympathy ▪ I could hear her *pathetic* [=*pitiful*] cries for help. ▪ The blind, old dog was a *pathetic* sight.

2 *informal* + *disapproving* : very bad, poor, weak, etc. ▪ The team was pretty bad last year, but this year they're downright *pathetic*. ▪ The story he told was a *pathetic* attempt to cover up a lie. ▪ a *pathetic* excuse ▪ His car is a *pathetic* piece of junk.

– **pa•thet•i•cal•ly** /pəˈθɛtɪkli/ *adv* ▪ The child cried *pathetically*.

path·find·er /ˈpæθˌfaɪndɚ, *Brit* ˈpɑːθˌfaɪndə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a person who goes ahead of a group and finds the best way to travel through an unknown area
2 : a person or group that is the first to do something and that makes it possible for others to do the same thing : TRAILBLAZER ▪ a *pathfinder* of the fashion world ▪ technological *pathfinders*

path·o·gen /ˈpæθədʒən/ *noun, pl* **-gens** [*count*] *medical* : something (such as a type of bacteria or a virus) that causes disease ▪ a deadly *pathogen*
– **path·o·gen·ic** /ˌpæθəˈdʒɛnɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *pathogenic* bacteria

path·o·log·i·cal /ˌpæθəˈlɑːdʒɪkəl/ *also US* **path·o·log·ic** /ˌpæθəˈlɑːdʒɪk/ *adj*
1 : extreme in a way that is not normal or that shows an illness or mental problem ▪ He is a *pathological* liar/gambler. ▪ She has a *pathological* fear of heights.
2 *medical* : relating to or caused by disease ▪ a *pathological* condition ▪ *pathological* changes in the body
3 *technical* : of or relating to the study of diseases : relating to pathology ▪ a *pathological* study ▪ *pathological* research/findings
– **path·o·log·i·cal·ly** /ˌpæθəˈlɑːdʒɪkli/ *adv* ▪ a *pathologically* greedy person

pa·thol·o·gist /pəˈθɑːlədʒɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*] *medical* : a doctor who specializes in pathology; *especially* : a doctor who examines bodies to find out the cause of death

pa·thol·o·gy /pəˈθɑːlədʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical*
1 : the study of diseases and of the changes that they cause ▪ a professor of *pathology* ▪ plant *pathology*
2 : changes in a person, an animal, or a plant that are caused by disease ▪ the *pathology* of lung diseases

pa·thos /ˈpeɪˌθɑːs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *literary* : a quality that causes people to feel sympathy and sadness ▪ Our knowledge of his tragic end adds an element of *pathos* to the story of his early success.

path·way /ˈpæθˌweɪ, *Brit* ˈpɑːθˌweɪ/ *noun, pl* **-ways** [*count*] : PATH ▪ We walked along a winding *pathway*. ▪ a *pathway* to success ▪ (*technical*) a ***neural pathway*** [=a series of connected nerves along which electrical impulses travel in the body]

pa·tience /ˈpeɪʃəns/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the quality of being patient: such as **a** : the ability to wait for a long time without becoming annoyed or upset ▪ I don't have the *patience* to wait in line for hours just to buy a ticket. ▪ Investors need to have *patience*. The economy will improve soon. ▪ "Aren't you finished yet?" "Have *patience* (with me). I'll be done soon." ▪ Those people have been waiting for hours, and they're starting to ***run out of patience***. = They're starting to ***lose patience***. ▪ After 10 long weeks, ***his patience was rewarded***. [=he got what he wanted after waiting 10 weeks for it] **b** : the ability to remain calm and not become annoyed when dealing with problems or with difficult people ▪ She treated her students with great *patience* and humor. ▪ I don't have (much) *patience* for that kind of behavior. = I have little/no *patience* for that kind of behavior. [=I am not willing to accept that kind of behavior] ▪ The team continues to play poorly, and many fans are starting to ***lose patience*** (with them). [=many fans are starting to become angry or upset about the team] ▪ She has ***the patience of a saint***. [=she is a very patient person] ▪ All these mistakes of yours are ***trying my patience***. [=I am starting to get upset because you have made so many mistakes] **c** : the ability to give attention to something for a long time without becoming bored or losing interest ▪ I don't have the *patience* to do crossword puzzles.
2 *Brit* : SOLITAIRE 1

[1]pa·tient /ˈpeɪʃənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : able to remain calm and not become annoyed when waiting for a long time or when dealing with problems or difficult people ▪ I hate having to stand in long lines. I'm just not very *patient*. ▪ The teacher treated her students in a *patient* and understanding way. ▪ "Aren't you finished yet?" "Be *patient*. I'll be done soon." — often + *with* ▪ The teacher was *patient with* her students. — opposite IMPATIENT
2 : done in a careful way over a long period of time without hurrying ▪ Proofreading requires *patient* attention to detail. ▪ They put in years of *patient* labor/work on the project.
– **pa·tient·ly** *adv* ▪ He *patiently* waited for his turn. ▪ The teacher *patiently* explained the new material.

[2]patient *noun, pl* **-tients** [*count*] : a person who receives medical care or treatment ▪ Several *patients* were waiting to see the doctor/dentist. ▪ hospital/cancer *patients* — see also INPATIENT, OUTPATIENT

pa·ti·na /pəˈtiːnə/ *noun, pl* **-nas** [*count*]
1 : a thin usually green layer that forms naturally on the metals copper and bronze when they are exposed to the air for a long time
2 : a shiny or dark surface that forms naturally on something (such as wood or leather) that is used for a long time — usually singular ▪ the beautiful *patina* of this antique table
3 : a thin layer — usually singular ▪ The kitchen counter was covered with a *patina* of grease. — often used figuratively ▪ a criminal who has been given a *patina* of respectability by his friendship with well-known businessmen

pa·tio /ˈpætiˌoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-ti·os** [*count*] : a flat area of ground that is covered with a hard material (such as bricks or concrete), is usually behind a house, and is used for sitting and relaxing ▪ Let's have dinner on the *patio*. [=at a table on the patio] ▪ a ***patio door*** [=a sliding glass door that opens to a patio, deck, etc.]

pa·tis·se·rie /pəˈtɪsəri/ *noun, pl* **-ries**
1 [*count*] : a shop that sells cakes, cookies, etc. : a pastry shop
2 [*noncount*] : the things that are sold in a patisserie ▪ a delicious selection of French *patisserie*

pa·tois /ˈpæˌtwɑː/ *noun, pl* **pa·tois** /ˈpæˌtwɑːz/ [*count*] : a form of a language that is spoken only in a particular area and that is different from the main form of the same language ▪ the local *patois* [=*dialect*]

patresfamilias *plural of* PATERFAMILIAS

pa·tri·arch /ˈpeɪtriˌɑɚk/ *noun, pl* **-archs** [*count*]
1 : a man who controls a family, group, or government ▪ Our grandfather was the family's *patriarch*. ▪ The tribe's *patriarch* ruled for 20 years before his death. — compare MATRIARCH
2 : an official (called a bishop) of very high rank in the Orthodox Church
– **pa·tri·ar·chal** /ˌpeɪtriˈɑɚkəl/ *adj* ▪ *patriarchal* cultures/societies [=cultures/societies that are controlled by men]

pa·tri·ar·chy /ˈpeɪtriˌɑɚki/ *noun, pl* **-chies**
1 [*count*] : a family, group, or government controlled by a man or a group of men ▪ For 20 years, the country was ruled as a *patriarchy*. ▪ ancient *patriarchies*
2 [*noncount*] : a social system in which family members are related to each other through their fathers ▪ a region in which *patriarchy* is practiced — compare MATRIARCHY

pa·tri·cian /pəˈtrɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-cians** [*count*] *formal* : a person who is a member of the highest social class : ARISTOCRAT
– **patrician** *adj* ▪ *patrician* families

pat·ri·cide /ˈpætrəˈsaɪd/ *noun, pl* **-cides** [*count*] : the act of murdering your own father — compare FRATRICIDE, MATRICIDE

pat·ri·mo·ny /ˈpætrəˌmoʊni/ *noun* [*singular*] *formal*
1 : property that you receive from your father when he dies : INHERITANCE
2 : things that are from the past : HERITAGE ▪ These historic landmarks are an important part of our cultural *patrimony*.

pa·tri·ot /ˈpeɪtrijət, *Brit* ˈpætrijət/ *noun, pl* **-ots** [*count*] : a person who loves and strongly supports or fights for his or her country ▪ He was a great *patriot* who devoted his life to serving his country.

pa·tri·ot·ic /ˌpeɪtriˈɑːtɪk, *Brit* ˌpætriˈɒtɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing great love and support for your country : having or showing patriotism ▪ *patriotic* songs/speeches ▪ A *patriotic* fervor swept the country.
– **pa·tri·ot·i·cal·ly** /ˌpeɪtriˈɑːtɪkli, *Brit* ˌpætriˈɒtɪkli/ *adv*

pa·tri·o·tism /ˈpeɪtrijəˌtɪzəm, *Brit* ˈpætrijəˌtɪzəm/ *noun* : love that people feel for their country [*noncount*] You may not agree with him politically, but no one can question his *patriotism*. [*singular*] They supported the war with a fierce *patriotism*. — compare NATIONALISM

[1]pa·trol /pəˈtroʊl/ *noun, pl* **-trols**
1 : the act of walking or going around or through an area, building, etc., in order to make sure that it is safe : the act of patrolling an area [*count*] The guard makes a *patrol* of the building every hour. [*noncount*] Soldiers are ***on patrol*** along the border. ▪ a ***patrol officer***
2 [*count*] : a group of people, vehicles, etc., that go through an area to make sure that it is safe : a group that patrols an area ▪ Army *patrols* combed the area. ▪ the highway *patrol* ▪ the U.S. Border *Patrol* ▪ a ***foot patrol*** [=a group that patrols by walking] ▪ the ***ski patrol*** [=a group that patrols an area on skis]

²patrol *verb* **-trols; -trolled; -trol·ling** : to walk or go around or through (an area, building, etc.) especially in order to make sure that it is safe [+ *obj*] The squad had orders to *patrol* the area. ▪ The border is *patrolled* by the army. ▪ Police *patrol* the streets. [*no obj*] They *patrolled* on foot.
– **pa·trol·ler** *noun, pl* **-lers** [*count*]

patrol car *noun, pl* ~ **cars** [*count*] : a car that is used by the police to patrol an area

pa·trol·man /pə'troʊlmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** [*count*]
1 *US* : a police officer who patrols an area
2 *Brit* : a person who works for an organized group of car owners and who goes to help if one of the owners' cars stops working when it is being driven

patrol wagon *noun, pl* ~ **-ons** [*count*] *US* : a truck that is used by the police to carry prisoners — called also (*US, informal*) *paddy wagon*

pa·tron /'peɪtrən/ *noun, pl* **-trons** [*count*]
1 : a person who gives money and support to an artist, organization, etc. ▪ She is a well-known *patron* of the arts. ▪ a *patron* of musicians/poets
2 *somewhat formal* : a person who buys the goods or uses the services of a business, library, etc. ▪ A number of *patrons* [=*customers*] were waiting for tables at the restaurant. ▪ library *patrons*

pa·tron·age /'pætrənɪʤ/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : money and support that is given to an artist, organization, etc. ▪ The college relied on the *patronage* of its wealthy graduates to expand its funds. ▪ They thanked her for her *patronage* of the new hospital.
2 *chiefly US, somewhat formal* : support that is given to a business, library, etc., by buying its goods or using its services ▪ The city should do more to encourage *patronage* of local businesses. ▪ The new library is expected to have heavy *patronage*. [=many people are expected to use the new library]
3 *often disapproving* : the power to give jobs or provide other help to people as a reward for their support ▪ a system of political *patronage*

pa·tron·ess /'peɪtrənəs/ *noun, pl* **-ess·es** [*count*] : a woman who gives money and support to an artist, organization, etc. : a female patron ▪ a *patroness* of the arts

pa·tron·ize *also Brit* **pa·tron·ise** /'peɪtrəˌnaɪz, *Brit* 'pætrəˌnaɪz/ *verb* **-iz·es; -ized; -iz·ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to give money or support to (someone or something) ▪ The family *patronizes* the arts/symphony.
2 *disapproving* : to talk to (someone) in a way that shows that you believe you are more intelligent or better than other people [+ *obj*] He hated being *patronized* and pitied by those who didn't believe his story. [*no obj*] "I'm sure you did your best even though you failed." "Please don't *patronize*."
3 [+ *obj*] *somewhat formal* : to be a frequent or regular customer or user of (a place) ▪ It's a popular department store *patronized* by many people. [=many people shop at the store] ▪ I *patronize* the library regularly.

patronizing *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving* : showing that you believe you are more intelligent or better than other people ▪ She spoke to us in a *patronizing* [=*condescending*] tone. ▪ a *patronizing* smile
– **pa·tron·iz·ing·ly** *adv*

patron saint *noun, pl* ~ **saints** [*count*]
1 : a saint who is believed to protect a particular place or type of person ▪ St. David is the *patron saint* of Wales. ▪ St. Christopher is the *patron saint* of travelers.
2 : a person who is known or admired as a leader or example ▪ The success of her books has made her the *patron saint* of a new literary movement.

pat·sy /'pætsi/ *noun, pl* **-sies** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* : a foolish person who is easily tricked or cheated ▪ They treated us like a bunch of *patsies*.

¹pat·ter /'pætɚ/ *noun* [*singular*] : fast, continuous talk that is used to sell something or to entertain people ▪ sales *patter* ▪ The band leader kept up a running *patter* between songs. — compare ²PATTER

²patter *noun* [*singular*] : a quick series of light sounds or beats often + *of* ▪ I heard the *patter of* little feet as the children ran down the hall. ▪ the *patter of* rain against/on the windows — see also PITTER-PATTER — compare ¹PATTER
– **patter** *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **-ters; -tered; -ter·ing** [*no obj*] ▪ Their feet *pattered down* the hall. ▪ The rain was *pattering on* the roof.

¹pat·tern /'pætɚn/ *noun, pl* **-terns** [*count*]
1 : a repeated form or design especially that is used to decorate something ▪ The dishes have a floral *pattern* around the rim. ▪ The fabric comes in different colors and *patterns*. ▪ The rug is decorated with a geometric *pattern*. ▪ The shadows made a *pattern* of lines on the ground. — see color picture on page C12
2 a : the regular and repeated way in which something happens or is done ▪ They are studying behavior *patterns* among high-school students. ▪ Analysts are noticing different spending *patterns* by consumers. ▪ The trees followed a characteristic *pattern* of growth. ▪ Your symptoms ***fit the pattern*** of diabetes. [=your symptoms are the same as the symptoms of diabetes] ▪ His daily routine followed a ***set pattern***. [=it was always the same] ▪ The book ***set the pattern*** [=created an example which is followed by others] for detective fiction. **b** : something that happens in a regular and repeated way ▪ We have to find a way to break the *pattern* of violence. [=to make the violence stop]
3 : a shape or model that is used as guide for making something ▪ a ***dress pattern*** [=a large piece of paper that is used as a guide for cutting the cloth to make a dress]
– see also HOLDING PATTERN

²pattern *verb* **-terns; -terned; -tern·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to make or design (something) so that it is similar to something else of the same type — usually used as *(be) patterned + on* or (*US*) *after* ▪ Her garden ***is patterned on*** [=*modeled on*] one she saw on her travels. ▪ The new program ***is patterned after*** an earlier one.
2 : to decorate or mark (something) with a design : to form a pattern on (something) ▪ Animals tracks *patterned* the mud.
pattern yourself on *or US* ***pattern yourself after*** : to try to be like and to behave like (someone you admire) ▪ When he started his own business, he *patterned himself after* [=*modeled himself after*] his father. [=he tried to do the things that his father would do]

pat·terned /'pætɚnd/ *adj* : having a design that is repeated many times : decorated with a pattern ▪ *patterned* fabrics/rugs/wallpaper

pat·tern·ing /'pætɚnɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the designs or patterns that appear on something ▪ The wallpaper is decorated with floral *patterning*.

pat·ty *also* **pat·tie** /'pæti/ *noun, pl* **pat·ties** [*count*]
1 *chiefly US* : a small, flat cake of chopped food ▪ hamburger/beef/chicken *patties*
2 *US* : a soft, flat candy ▪ a peppermint *patty*

pat·ty–cake (*US*) /'pætiˌkeɪk/ *also* **pat–a–cake** /'pætəˌkeɪk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a children's game in which two people lightly hit their hands together while singing a short poem (called a nursery rhyme) ▪ Let's do/play *patty-cake*.

pau·ci·ty /'pɑːsəti/ *noun* [*singular*] *formal* : a small amount *of* something : an amount that is less than what is needed or wanted ▪ There was a relative *paucity* [=*lack*] *of* detail in the report. ▪ a *paucity* [=*dearth*] *of* evidence

paunch /'pɑːnʧ/ *noun, pl* **paunch·es** [*count*] : a belly that sticks out especially on a man : a fat stomach ▪ He sat with his hands folded over his *paunch*. ▪ He used to be very thin but now he has a slight *paunch*.
– **paunchy** /'pɑːnʧi/ *adj* **paunch·i·er; -est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *paunchy* middle-aged man

pau·per /'pɑːpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-pers** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a very poor person who has no money to pay for food, clothing, etc.

¹pause /'pɑːz/ *noun, pl* **paus·es**
1 : a temporary stop : a period of time in which something is stopped before it is started again [*count*] There was a brief/long *pause* in the conversation. ▪ After a *pause* the teacher continued the lesson. [*noncount*] He talked for over an hour ***without pause***. [=without pausing or stopping]
2 [*noncount*] : a control that you use when you want to stop a recorded song, movie, etc., for a short time ▪ He hit *pause* on the player and explained the significance of the song's lyrics. ▪ Please hit the ***pause button*** on the remote control.
3 [*count*] *music* : the sign 𝄐 that is placed over or under a musical note, rest, etc., to show that it should be held longer than usual
give (someone) pause *also* ***give (someone) pause for thought*** : to cause (someone) to stop and think about something carefully or to have doubts about something ▪ I was going to ask her for help, but the look on her face *gave me pause*. [=made me hesitate] ▪ The latest economic news has *given investors pause for thought*.

²pause *verb* **pauses; paused; paus·ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to stop doing something for a short time before

doing it again ▪ She *paused* for a few seconds before crossing the street. ▪ We *paused* briefly to look at the scenery. ▪ He talked for over an hour without *pausing*.

2 [+ *obj*] : to cause (a recorded song, movie, etc.) to stop for a short time by pushing a button on a device ▪ He picked up the remote control and *paused* the movie.

pave /ˈpeɪv/ *verb* **paves**; **paved**; **pav•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cover (something) with a material (such as stone, tar, or concrete) that forms a hard, level surface for walking, driving, etc. ▪ The crew was *paving* the road. ▪ Some of the roads were *paved* over. ▪ The driveway is *paved* with concrete. ▪ a *paved* highway/road ▪ It was said that this country was so rich, the streets were ***paved with/in gold***.

pave over [*phrasal verb*] ***pave over (something)*** *or* ***pave (something) over*** *disapproving* : to cover (an area) with roads, parking lots, buildings, etc. ▪ All this beautiful farmland will be *paved over*.

pave the way for (something or someone) : to make it easier for something to happen or for someone to do something ▪ The discovery *paves the way for* the development of effective new treatments.

pave•ment /ˈpeɪvmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**

1 [*noncount*] *US* : the hard surface of a road, driveway, etc. ▪ He stopped the car just off the *pavement*. ▪ The summer heat rose off the *pavement*.

2 [*count*] *Brit* : SIDEWALK

hit the pavement see ¹HIT

pavement café see CAFÉ

pound the pavement see ⁴POUND

pa•vil•ion /pəˈvɪljən/ *noun, pl* **-ions** [*count*]

1 : a building in a park or garden that usually has open sides and is used for parties, concerts, or other events

2 : a temporary building that is used at public events and exhibitions ▪ The World's Fair had numerous *pavilions*.

3 *US* : a large building that is used for sports or public events

4 *Brit* : a building that is next to a sports field and used by players and people watching the game

paving *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : material (such as stone, tar, or concrete) that is used to form the hard surface of a road, driveway, etc. ▪ The driveway was covered with concrete/brick *paving*.

2 : the hard surface of a road, driveway, etc. : PAVEMENT ▪ They had to break up the *paving* to lay a new gas line.

paving stone *noun, pl* ~ **stones** [*count*] : a flat stone or brick used to make a hard surface to walk on outdoors

¹paw /ˈpɑː/ *noun, pl* **paws** [*count*]

1 : the foot of an animal that has claws ▪ The dog injured his *paw*. ▪ a cat's *paw*

2 *informal* + *disapproving* : a person's hand ▪ Keep your dirty *paws* off me! [=don't touch me]

²paw *verb* **paws**; **pawed**; **paw•ing**

1 *of an animal* : to touch or hit (someone or something) with a paw or foot [+ *obj*] The bull was *pawing* the dirt/ground. [*no obj*] — usually + *at* ▪ The dog *pawed at* the door.

2 [+ *obj*] : to touch (someone or something) in a rough or sexual way ▪ The celebrity couple was *pawed* by a mob of adoring fans. ▪ She claims that her boss got drunk and tried to *paw* her at the company Christmas party.

3 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to search by using your hands in an awkward or careless way ▪ A crowd of customers was *pawing* over the remaining sales items. ▪ She *pawed* through her purse to find her cell phone.

¹pawn /ˈpɑːn/ *noun, pl* **pawns** [*count*]

1 : one of the eight small pieces that have the least value in the game of chess — see picture at CHESS

2 : a person or group that does not have much power and that is controlled by a more powerful person or group — usually + *in* ▪ He became a *pawn in* the power struggle.

²pawn *verb* **pawns**; **pawned**; **pawn•ing** [+ *obj*] : to give (something that you own) to a pawnbroker in exchange for money ▪ She was forced to *pawn* her diamond ring.

pawn off [*phrasal verb*] ***pawn (something) off*** *or* ***pawn off (something)*** *US, informal* **1** : to sell (something) for more than it is worth by being dishonest about it ▪ He'll *pawn* [=*palm*] the car *off* on/onto some unsuspecting fool if he can. ▪ I *pawned off* my old computer on him. **2** : to get someone to accept or do (something) ▪ He tried to *pawn off* science fiction as truth.

pawn•bro•ker /ˈpɑːnˌbroʊkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-kers** [*count*] : a person who lends money to people in exchange for personal property that can be sold if the money is not returned within a certain time ▪ He was desperate for money so he hocked his watch to a *pawnbroker*.

pawn•shop /ˈpɑːnˌʃɑːp/ *noun, pl* **-shops** [*count*] : a pawnbroker's shop

paw•paw /pəˈpɑː, ˈpɑːˌpɑː/ *noun, pl* **-paws** [*count, noncount*] *chiefly Brit* : PAPAYA

¹pay /ˈpeɪ/ *verb* **pays**; **paid** /ˈpeɪd/; **pay•ing**

1 a [*no obj*] : to give money for goods or services ▪ I already *paid* last week. ▪ Where do we *pay* to get in? ▪ Do we have to *pay* to park here? ▪ They left the restaurant without *paying*. ▪ Should I *pay* in dollars or pesos? ▪ We're trying to attract more ***paying customers*** [=customers that buy things from our company] through our Web site. ▪ ***paying passengers*** ▪ After their children left for college, they began opening their home to ***paying guests***. [=people who give you money to live in your house with you for a short time] — often + *for* ▪ He offered to *pay for* our dinner. ▪ How will you be *paying for* your purchase: (in) cash, (by) check, or (with a) credit card? ▪ "That cheap camera I bought is broken already." "Well, ***you get what you pay for***." [=a thing that can be bought for a very low price probably isn't very good] **b** [+ *obj*] : to give money to (someone) for goods or services ▪ I'll *pay* the taxi driver. ▪ Has anyone *paid* her yet? ▪ We get *paid* on Fridays. ▪ The workers get *paid* well. = The workers are well-*paid*. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ They're going to *pay* a crew *to paint* the house. ▪ ***You couldn't pay me*** *to jump* out of an airplane! [=I would never jump out of an airplane, even if you gave me a lot of money] — sometimes + *in* ▪ "Did he give you a check?" "No, he *paid* me *in* cash." ▪ When he mowed her lawn, she *paid* him *in* cookies. [=she gave him cookies for mowing her lawn] **c** [+ *obj*] : to give (something, such as an amount of money) for goods or services ▪ I *paid* $200 to him yesterday. = I *paid* him $200 yesterday. ▪ These workers are *paid* extremely low wages by their employers. ▪ She *pays* 15 percent (of her earnings) to her agent. ▪ I *paid* a lot of money for this car. ▪ How much are you willing to *pay*? ▪ They *paid* over $300,000 for their house. ▪ They *paid* a high price [=a lot of money] for that painting. ▪ I couldn't afford to ***pay cash***, so I put it on my credit card. ▪ We ***paid good money*** [=we gave a large amount of money] to see this show, and we want our money's worth! **d** — used to say how much someone earns for doing a job [*no obj*] My job doesn't *pay* very well. [=I don't earn much money from my job] ▪ It's difficult work that *pays* relatively poorly. ▪ high-*paying* jobs [+ *obj*] The job *pays* $150,000 a year.

2 [+ *obj*] : to give the money that you owe for (something) ▪ I can't afford to *pay* my rent. ▪ *paying* taxes/fines/penalties ▪ Use the company's financing plan and *pay* no interest for a full year. ▪ Has this bill been *paid*? ▪ The receipt shows that their bill has been ***paid in full***. [=all of the money they owed has been paid]

3 : to have a good or helpful result : to be worth the expense or effort to do something [*no obj*] Hard work always *pays* [=*pays off*] in the long run. ▪ ***Crime doesn't pay***. [=you get more trouble than benefit from committing a crime] — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ ***It pays*** [=it is worth the effort] *to study* your notes after every class. ▪ When the roads are icy, *it pays to drive* slowly. ▪ *It pays to advertise*. [+ *obj*] ***It pays*** stores *to be* open on the weekends. [=stores benefit from being open on the weekends] ▪ Spending a lot of money on advertising has ***paid dividends*** for our company. [=has given our company extra advantages or benefits] ▪ Our efforts are finally *paying dividends*. [=we are finally getting the results we want from our efforts]

4 [+ *obj*] : to give (a percentage of money) as the profit from an investment or business ▪ The investment *paid* eight percent last year. ▪ a savings account *paying* four percent interest

5 a [*no obj*] : to deal with the bad result of something that you did : to be punished for doing something ▪ If you offend him, he will make you *pay*. — often + *for* ▪ I'll make you *pay for* what you've done to me! ▪ You'll *pay for* this! ▪ She ***paid dearly*** *for* her mistakes. [=she suffered a lot as a result of her mistakes] ▪ He thinks that the people who committed these terrible crimes should ***pay with their lives***. [=should be killed] **b** [+ *obj*] : to give, lose, or suffer (something) as a punishment for or result of something else ▪ We all felt that 25 years in prison was a ***high/small price to pay*** for his crimes. ✧ If you ***pay a/the price*** or ***pay a heavy/high/steep (etc.) price*** or (*Brit*) ***pay the penalty*** for something, you experience the bad effects or results of that thing. ▪ I knew the consequences of what I was about to do, but I was willing to *pay the price*. ▪ Famous people always *pay a price* for their

fame. ▪ She *paid a heavy price* for telling the truth. ▪ Someone has to *pay the penalty* for these mistakes.

6 [+ *obj*] — used in various phrases that describe giving your attention to what is being done or said ▪ Are you ***paying attention***? [=are you listening and trying to understand?] ▪ Remember to ***pay close attention*** to the instructions. ▪ He's just teasing you. ***Don't pay any attention*** to him. = ***Pay no attention*** to him. [=don't be upset by what he is saying] ▪ He kept talking but she ***paid him no mind***. [=she didn't listen to what he said] ▪ ***Pay heed*** to what he says. [=listen to what he says]

7 [+ *obj*] — used to describe saying or doing something that expresses respect, admiration, etc., for someone ▪ She ***paid me a compliment***. [=she said something nice about me] ▪ We gather here today to ***pay tribute/homage to*** [=to honor and praise] a great woman.

hell to pay *or* ***the devil to pay*** — used to say that if a specific thing happens, something else that is very bad will be the result or someone will get very upset ▪ We knew that if anyone caught us cheating there would be *hell to pay*. [=we would be severely punished] ▪ There'll be *the devil to pay* if we don't finish on time.

pay a call/visit : to go somewhere to visit someone ▪ She ***paid me a visit*** [=she came to visit me] while I was in the hospital. = She ***paid a call on me*** while I was in the hospital.

pay back [*phrasal verb*] **1 *pay back (something) or pay (something) back*** : to return (an amount of money) that someone allowed you to borrow ▪ She has to *pay back* the $100 she borrowed. ▪ He said that he'll *pay* the money *back* tomorrow. ▪ *paying back* a loan **2 *pay (someone) back or pay back (someone)*** **a** : to give (someone) the amount of money that you borrowed ▪ I'll *pay* you *back* when I get the money. ▪ I lent him money and he never *paid* me *back*. ▪ I have to *pay back* my sister for that loan. **b** : to punish or hurt (someone who did something bad to you) ▪ I wanted to *pay* him *back* [=*get back at him*; make him suffer] for all the pain he caused me. ▪ He's finally getting *paid back* for all the trouble he caused. — see also PAYBACK **c** : to do something good for (someone who did something good for you) ▪ How can I *pay* you *back* for all your help?

pay court to see [1]COURT

pay for itself ✧ If you buy something that *pays for itself*, the amount of money you save by using the product for a period of time is more than the amount of money you spent when you bought the product. ▪ You save so much on heating costs with our high-quality windows that the windows will *pay for themselves* within five years!

pay in [*phrasal verb*] ***pay in (something) or pay (something) in*** *Brit* : to put (money) in an account : DEPOSIT ▪ I went to the bank to *pay in* a cheque. ▪ *paying* a cheque *in* an account

pay into [*phrasal verb*] ***pay into (something)*** *chiefly US* : to put money into (a fund or account) ▪ Each month she *pays into* an account that can be used for medical expenses.

pay off [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to produce a result that you want ▪ It's great to see that all of our hard work has finally *paid off*. **2 *pay off (something) or pay (something) off*** : to give all of the money that you owe for (something that you pay for over a period of time) ▪ It will take us 30 years to *pay off* our mortgage, but then the house will be ours. ▪ If I won the money, I'd use it to *pay off* all my credit cards. ▪ *paying off* your debts ▪ She finally got her car *paid off*. [=she finally paid all the money she had borrowed to buy her car] **3 *pay off (someone) or pay (someone) off*** **a** : to give money to (someone) in order to make that person do something illegal or dishonest for you or to convince that person not to talk about something ▪ He tried to *pay off* [=*bribe*] a police officer. ▪ The company was accused of *paying off* its employees to keep them from talking about its illegal activities. **b** *Brit* : to stop employing (someone) after paying all of the money that was owed to that person ▪ They *paid off* all their workers and then closed the factory. — see also PAYOFF

pay out [*phrasal verb*] ***pay out (something) or pay (something) out*** **1** : to give (an amount of money) to someone usually over a period of time ▪ The government has *paid out* [=*disbursed*] millions of dollars in foreign aid. ▪ The prize money will be *paid out* (to the winner) over the course of five years. — see also PAYOUT **2** : to allow (a rope or chain) to become loose and move through your hands ▪ We lowered the anchor and continued to *pay out* several more feet of rope.

pay the piper see PIPER

pay through the nose see [1]NOSE

pay up [*phrasal verb*] *somewhat informal* **1** : to pay what you owe : to pay what is due ▪ We *paid up* and left. ▪ He decided to *pay up* after they threatened to take him to court for the money. **2** ✧ If you ***are paid up***, you have given all of the money that you owe until a specific date. ▪ You're (all) *paid up* through June. [=you do not have to pay any more money until after June]

pay your dues see [2]DUE

pay your (own) way : to use your own money to pay for the things you need or do ▪ She got a part-time job in order to *pay her way* through college. ▪ Students must *pay their own way* if they choose to participate in the trip. ▪ I wanted to buy him dinner, but he insisted on *paying his own way*.

pay your respects *formal* : to visit or speak with someone in a polite way as a sign of respect ▪ I went up to her after the meeting and *paid my respects*. ▪ We ***paid our last respects*** at his funeral. [=we went to his funeral as a sign of respect]

put paid to *Brit, informal* : to cause (something) to end : to stop (something) ▪ The storm *put paid to* his attempt to sail around the world. ▪ They hope to *put paid to* the argument once and for all.

– see also [2]PAID

[2]pay *noun* [*noncount*] : money received in exchange for work : money paid to someone for doing work ▪ receiving higher/better/lower *pay* ▪ The work is hard, but the *pay* is good. [=you earn a lot of money by doing the work] ▪ She spent a week's *pay* [=the amount of money she earns in one week] in just one night. ▪ He has been suspended without *pay* pending the results of the investigation. ▪ "Women," she said, "should receive equal *pay* for equal work." [=they should be paid the same amount of money as men who perform the same job] ▪ When he works on the weekends, he collects ***overtime pay***. [=an increased rate of money earned for working more than the usual number of hours in one week] ▪ The company owes her $500 in ***back pay***. [=money that is owed to a worker from an earlier time] ▪ ***severance pay*** [=money given to workers when a company ends their jobs] ▪ The workers are demanding an increase in their ***rate of pay***. = The workers are demanding an increase in their ***pay rate***. [=the amount of money they are paid per hour, week, etc.] ▪ Each ***pay period*** begins on the first of the month. ▪ (*US*) He asked for a ***pay raise*** = (*Brit*) He asked for a ***pay rise***. ▪ Workers received a $4,000 ***pay increase***. ▪ I took a significant ***pay cut*** when I took this job, but I think it was worth it. — see also BASE PAY, CO-PAY, SICK PAY, TAKE-HOME PAY

in the pay of someone : working usually in a secret way for a person or organization ▪ He was accused of being *in the pay of* gangsters.

pay•able /ˈpejəbəl/ *adj, always used after a noun* : possible or necessary to pay ▪ She charges her patients $3,000, *payable* in installments. ▪ The bill was *payable* [=*due*] on the first of February. ▪ The plan defines the maximum amount *payable* [=that will be paid] by the insurance company. ▪ (*business*) ***accounts payable*** [=the amounts of money that you owe to people or other businesses] — often + *to* ▪ benefits *payable to* the insured ✧ If a check is ***made payable to*** someone, the name of that person or business is written on the check. ▪ All checks should be *made payable to* the university. ▪ *Make* your check *payable to* "Therapy Associates Inc."

pay–as–you–go *adj* — used to describe a system of payment in which bills are paid when they are due or goods and services are paid for when they are bought ▪ The city adopted a *pay-as-you-go* policy to avoid future debt. ▪ I use a *pay-as-you-go* plan for my cell phone.

pay•back /ˈpeɪˌbæk/ *noun, pl* **-backs**

1 [*noncount*] : punishment for something that was done in the past ▪ This is *payback* [=this is my revenge] for all the pain you've caused me. ▪ They beat our team last year, so we've got to beat them this year as *payback*. ▪ You've ruined my life, and now it's ***payback time***. [=now I'm going to hurt you because you hurt me] — see also *pay back* at [1]PAY

2 [*count*] : an amount of money that you receive after investing in something and that is equal to or greater than the amount of money that you originally invested — usually singular ▪ The investment has yielded a big *payback* for the company. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ While these cars are expensive, there's a significant *payback* in terms of safety. [=the safety of the cars make them worth their high cost]

3 [*count*] : the amount of time that passes before invested money is returned or before money that is owed is paid — usually singular ▪ a five-year *payback* ▪ The ***payback period*** is expected to be less than six months on this investment. ▪ The

loan calls for a two-year *payback period*.

pay–cable *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : pay-TV that is sent through a cable television system — often used before another noun ▪ a *pay-cable* channel/network

pay·check (*US*) /ˈpeɪˌʧɛk/ *or Brit* **pay cheque** /ˈpeɪˌʧɛk/ *noun, pl* **-checks** [*count*]

1 : a check that is used to pay an employee for his or her work ▪ I went to the office to pick up my *paycheck*. ▪ a big *paycheck* [=a paycheck for a large amount of money] ▪ (*US*) We are ***living paycheck to paycheck*** [=we spend all of the money from one paycheck before we receive the next paycheck] and have no money left over for savings.

2 *chiefly US* : the money that you regularly earn : a wage or salary ▪ Your weekly *paycheck* will be almost $600 after taxes. ▪ When I was in college, I earned my first ***steady paycheck*** [=I was earning money regularly for the first time] as a waitress.

pay·day /ˈpeɪˌdeɪ/ *noun* : the day when you are regularly paid your wages [*noncount*] *Payday* is every other Friday. [=the company pays its employees every two weeks on a Friday] ▪ Next Friday is *payday*. [*count*] Is this Friday a *payday*?

pay dirt *noun*

hit/strike pay dirt *chiefly US, informal* : to do, find, or get something that results in money or success ▪ The band *hit pay dirt* [=had a big success] with their first single. ▪ The police *struck pay dirt* when a witness came forward with new information.

PAYE /ˌpiːˌeɪˌwaɪˈiː/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : WITHHOLDING TAX ✧ *PAYE* is an abbreviation of the words "pay as you earn."

pay·ee /peɪˈiː/ *noun, pl* **-ees** [*count*] *technical* : a person or organization that receives money : a person or organization that is paid ▪ The *payee* must endorse the back of the check. ▪ a *payee* bank

pay envelope *noun, pl* ~ **-lopes** [*count*] *US*

1 : an envelope that contains your wages

2 : the money that you regularly earn : a wage or salary ▪ Workers will be expecting bigger/fatter *pay envelopes* [=(more commonly) *paychecks*] next year. — called also (*Brit*) *pay packet*

pay·er /ˈpeɪəɹ/ *also* **pay·or** /peɪˈoəɹ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** *also* **-ors** [*count*] : a person, organization, etc., that pays or is responsible for paying something ▪ He is a regular bill *payer*. [=he pays his bills when they are due] ▪ a single-*payer* health-care system [=a system in which the government pays for everyone's health care] — see also TAXPAYER

paying–in slip *noun, pl* ~ **slips** [*count*] *Brit* : DEPOSIT SLIP

pay·load /ˈpeɪˌloʊd/ *noun, pl* **-loads** [*count*]

1 a : the amount of goods or material that is carried by a vehicle (such as a truck) ▪ a heavy *payload* ▪ truckers delivering their *payloads* **b** : the things (such as passengers or bombs) that are carried by an aircraft or spacecraft

2 : the weight of a payload ▪ The truck is carrying a *payload* of 2,580 pounds.

3 : the power of the explosive material in a bomb or missile

pay·mas·ter /ˈpeɪˌmæstəɹ, *Brit* ˈpeɪˌmɑːstə/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*]

1 : a person whose job is paying salaries or wages ▪ She worked as the company's *paymaster* for 22 years.

2 *usually disapproving* : a person, country, etc., that pays people and controls their actions ▪ a *paymaster* of/to terrorists

pay·ment /ˈpeɪmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**

1 [*noncount*] **a** : the act of giving money for something : the act of paying ▪ *Payment* is due on the first of every month. ▪ Prompt *payment* of your bill ensures that you will not have to pay any additional fees. ▪ We require *payment* in advance for all goods purchased. ▪ an online/electronic *payment* system ▪ a *payment* plan to reduce your debt ▪ He was released from prison ***on payment of*** [=after paying] a $5,000 fine. ▪ cash, credit cards, and other ***methods of payment*** ▪ I had the bank ***stop payment on*** the check. = I had a ***stop payment*** (order) put on the check. [=I told the bank not to take money from my account to pay for the check] **b** : something that is given to someone in exchange for something else ▪ He accepted the tickets as *payment* (for his services). ▪ We bought them dinner ***in payment*** [=as a way of paying them] for all their help.

2 [*count*] : an amount of money that is paid for something ▪ Our records show that we received a *payment* of $215.36 in May. ▪ Buy this product for three easy *payments* of only $19.95! ▪ low monthly *payments* ▪ It took me five years to pay off the car, but I never missed a *payment*. ▪ ***making payments*** on a loan ▪ Their family is struggling to ***meet the payments on*** their house. = They're struggling to keep up (with) their ***mortgage payments***. ▪ The credit card company just increased the penalty on ***late payments***. ▪ She wrote the first three chapters of her book and received an ***advance payment*** from the publisher. ▪ ***cash payments*** from donors ▪ ***interest payments*** on a loan — see also BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, BALLOON PAYMENT, DOWN PAYMENT

pay·off /ˈpeɪˌɑːf/ *noun, pl* **-offs**

1 : a good result : the advantage or benefit that is gained from doing something [*count*] You'll have to work hard but there'll be a big/large *payoff* in the end. ▪ We expected more of a *payoff* for all our hard work. ▪ What's the *payoff*? [*noncount*] We made a lot of sacrifices with little *payoff*.

2 [*count*] : something valuable (such as money) that you give to someone for doing something and especially for doing something illegal or dishonest : BRIBE ▪ Several city officials have been accused of receiving *payoffs* from the company.

3 [*count*] *Brit* : money that a company gives to a worker who is being forced to leave a job ▪ He lost his factory job but received a *payoff* and a pension. — see also *pay off* at ¹PAY

pay·o·la /peɪˈoʊlə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US, informal*

1 : money that is paid to someone for illegally helping to sell or advertise a product ▪ These radio disc jockeys accepted *payola* to play particular songs.

2 : the illegal practice of giving or receiving payola ▪ *payola* in the music industry ▪ a *payola* scandal

payor *variant spelling of* PAYER

pay·out /ˈpeɪˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*] : a usually large amount of money that is given to someone ▪ Each year, the government spends millions of dollars in *payouts* [=*disbursements*] to corporate farms. ▪ a large insurance *payout* — see also *pay out* at ¹PAY

pay packet *noun, pl* ~ **-ets** [*count*] *Brit* : PAY ENVELOPE ▪ her weekly/monthly *pay packet*

pay–per–view *noun* [*noncount*] : cable television channels that charge a fee for each show you watch ▪ We're watching a boxing match on *pay-per-view* tonight. — often used before another noun ▪ *pay-per-view* movies

pay phone *noun, pl* ~ **phones** [*count*] : a public telephone that you can use if you put coins into it or use a calling card to pay for your call — see picture at TELEPHONE

pay·roll /ˈpeɪˌroʊl/ *noun, pl* **-rolls** [*count*]

1 : a list of the people who work for a company and the amount of money that the company has agreed to pay them ▪ They cut him from their *payroll*. — often used before another noun ▪ She's in charge of the company's *payroll* department. [=the department that is responsible for paying employees] ▪ ***payroll deductions*** [=money that you earn but is not included in the pay you receive because it is used to pay your taxes, insurance costs, etc.] — often used in the phrase ***on the payroll*** ▪ Her company has over 3,000 employees *on the payroll*. ▪ He's currently *on the payroll* of a small law firm.

2 : the total amount of money that a company pays to all of its employees ▪ He's the manager of a baseball team with a $50 million *payroll*. ▪ Businesses are keeping their *payrolls* low by embracing new technologies.

payroll tax *noun, pl* ~ **taxes** [*count*]

1 : a tax that is paid by a company and that is based on the amount of money that the company spends paying all of its employees

2 : WITHHOLDING TAX

pay stub *noun, pl* ~ **stubs** [*count*] *US* : a piece of paper that is given to an employee with each paycheck and that shows the amount of money that the employee earned and the amount that was removed for taxes, insurance costs, etc. ▪ Keep your *pay stubs* for your financial records. — called also (*Brit*) *pay slip*

pay–TV *noun* [*noncount*] : television channels that you must order and pay for ▪ a movie on *pay-TV* ▪ subscribers to *pay-TV* channels/networks — called also *pay television*; compare PAY-CABLE

PB&J *abbr* peanut butter and jelly

PBS *abbr* Public Broadcasting Service ✧ PBS is an organization that produces educational television programs that are shown without commercials in a network of stations throughout the U.S.

¹PC /ˌpiːˈsiː/ *noun, pl* **PCs** *or* **PC's** [*count*] : PERSONAL COMPUTER

[2]PC *abbr* **1** Peace Corps **2** politically correct; political correctness **3** *Brit* police constable

PCP *abbr, US* primary care physician; primary care provider

pct *abbr* percent; percentage

pd *abbr* paid

PD *abbr, US* police department

PDA /ˌpi:ˌdi:ˈeɪ/ *noun, pl* **PDAs** [*count*] : a small electronic device that is used for storing and organizing information (such as phone numbers, addresses, appointments, and notes) ✧ *PDA* is an abbreviation of "personal digital assistant."

PDQ *or* **pdq** *or* **p.d.q.** /ˌpi:ˌdi:ˈkju:/ *adv, informal* : as quickly as possible : immediately ▪ We need to hire someone *PDQ*. ✧ *PDQ* is an abbreviation of the phrase "pretty damned quick."

P.E. (*US*) *or* **PE** *abbr* physical education

pea /ˈpi:/ *noun, pl* **peas** [*count*] : a small, round, green seed that is eaten as a vegetable and that is formed in a seed case (called a pod) of a climbing plant; *also* : a plant that produces peas ▪ We're growing tomatoes and *peas* in our garden this year. — see color picture on page C4; see also BLACK-EYED PEA, CHICKPEA, SNAP PEA, SNOW PEA, SUGAR SNAP PEA, SWEET PEA

two peas in a pod — used to say that two people or things are very similar to each other ▪ My brother and I are *two peas in a pod*. We both like the same things.

peace /ˈpi:s/ *noun*

1 a : a state in which there is no war or fighting [*noncount*] After many years of war, people on both sides were longing for *peace*. ▪ We said a prayer for world *peace*. ▪ They have lived ***in peace*** [=*peacefully*] for many years. ▪ We grew up in a time when the nation was prosperous and ***at peace***. [=not fighting a war] ▪ The United Nations has sent troops to the area to try to ***keep (the) peace***. [*singular*] a lasting *peace* ▪ The two countries have maintained an ***uneasy peace***. [=a state in which fighting could start at any time] **b** [*singular*] : an agreement to end a war ▪ He tried to negotiate a *peace* between the warring countries. ▪ After many years of war, the two countries have finally ***made peace*** (with each other). — often used before another noun ▪ a *peace* agreement/accord/treaty ▪ a *peace* initiative/conference ▪ *peace* talks ▪ the ***peace process*** [=the steps that are taken by countries or groups that are trying to end a war] **c** [*singular*] : a period of time when there is no war or fighting ▪ There was a *peace* of 50 years before war broke out again.

2 [*noncount*] **a** : a quiet and calm state ▪ I just want a few moments of *peace*. = I just want a little ***peace and quiet***. ▪ Why won't they leave him ***in peace***? [=why won't they stop bothering him?] **b** : a safe and calm state in a public place ▪ ***Peace and order*** were finally restored in the town. ▪ He was arrested for ***a breach of the peace***. = He was arrested for ***disturbing the peace***. [=for behaving in a loud or violent way in a public place] — see also JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

3 : a state in which a person is not bothered by thoughts or feelings of doubt, guilt, worry, etc. [*singular*] After years of therapy, he has finally achieved an inner *peace*. [*noncount*] He is searching for inner *peace*. ▪ She has found *peace* (within herself). ▪ Insurance can provide you with ***peace of mind***. ▪ The problem was settled and his mind was ***at peace***. ▪ They are ***at peace with*** each other. ▪ She's *at peace with* their decision. [=she has accepted their decision] ▪ May our dearly departed friend ***rest in peace***. [=we hope our friend who has died will have peace after death]

4 [*noncount*] : a state in which people do not argue or cause trouble ▪ There will never be *peace* between those families. ▪ She wants to go, and we won't have any *peace* until we agree to let her do what she wants.

hold your peace see [1]HOLD

make your peace with ✧ If you *make your peace with* someone, you end an argument or disagreement that you had with that person. ▪ He wanted to *make his peace with* his father before he died.

sue for peace see SUE

peace•able /ˈpi:səbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : not liking or wanting to fight or argue ▪ They are a *peaceable* [=*peaceful*], good-natured people. ▪ He has a *peaceable* nature.

2 : not involving violence or fighting ▪ The crowd dispersed in a *peaceable* manner.

– **peace•ably** /ˈpi:səbli/ *adv* ▪ As neighbors, they had lived *peaceably* for many years.

Peace Corps *noun*

the Peace Corps : a U.S. organization that trains and sends people who work without pay to help poor people in other countries

peace dividend *noun, pl* ~ **-dends** [*count*] : money that a government originally planned to spend on its military that becomes available for other things when a situation changes (such as when a war ends) — usually singular

peace•ful /ˈpi:sfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : quiet and calm : without noise, excitement, etc. ▪ a *peaceful* countryside ▪ The park is so *peaceful* and quiet.

2 : not fighting a war ▪ *peaceful* nations

3 : not involving violence or force ▪ a *peaceful* rally/demonstration/protest ▪ They settled the conflict by *peaceful* means. ▪ We need to find a *peaceful* alternative to war.

4 : not liking or wanting to fight : preferring peace ▪ They are a *peaceful* [=*peaceable*] people.

– **peace•ful•ly** *adv* ▪ She slept *peacefully*. ▪ The nations managed to coexist *peacefully*. ▪ He lived *peacefully* among the villagers. – **peace•ful•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

peace•keep•er /ˈpi:sˌki:pɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : someone (such as a soldier) who helps to prevent or stop fighting between countries or groups ▪ *Peacekeepers* were sent in to stop the violence.

– **peace•keep•ing** /ˈpi:sˌki:pɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *peacekeeping* force/mission ▪ *peacekeeping* operations/troops

peace•mak•er /ˈpi:sˌmeɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who helps to prevent or stop an argument, a fight, or a war ▪ She acted as *peacemaker* in the dispute.

– **peace•mak•ing** /ˈpi:sˌmeɪkɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *peacemaking* efforts/activities ▪ He was sent on a *peacemaking* trip. – **peacemaking** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Our attempts at *peacemaking* have failed.

peace offering *noun, pl* ~ **-ings** [*count*] : a gift that is given as a way of apologizing or making peace ▪ After our last argument, I sent her flowers as a *peace offering*.

peace officer *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *US, law* : a police officer or similar official ▪ He was arrested for assaulting a *peace officer*.

peace pipe *noun, pl* ~ **pipes** [*count*] : a pipe that is smoked by Native Americans in a special ceremony as a sign of peace

peace sign *noun, pl* ~ **signs** [*count*]

1 : a sign that you make by holding your hand up with the palm facing away from you and with only the two fingers that are closest to your thumb pointing upward in the shape of a V ✧ This gesture was popular especially in the late 1960s. It is used either as a peaceful greeting or to show that you want peace rather than war. — usually singular ▪ He flashed a *peace sign* at us as we drove by.

2 : PEACE SYMBOL

peace symbol *noun, pl* ~ **-bols** [*count*] : the symbol ☮ that is used to say that peace is wanted instead of war

peace•time /ˈpi:sˌtaɪm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a period of time during which a country is not fighting a war ▪ The size of the army was reduced during/in *peacetime*. — often used before another noun ▪ the *peacetime* army/economy — opposite WARTIME

peach /ˈpi:ʧ/ *noun, pl* **peach•es**

1 [*count*] : a round, sweet fruit that has white or yellow flesh, soft yellow or pink skin, and a large, hard seed at the center ▪ a ripe, juicy *peach* — see color picture on page C5

2 [*noncount*] : a yellowish-pink color — see color picture on page C3

3 [*singular*] *informal + old-fashioned* : a person or thing that is liked or admired very much ▪ He's a real *peach*. = He's a *peach* of a guy. [=he's a great guy]

peaches and cream **1** — used to describe someone who has smooth and pale skin with light pink cheeks ▪ She has a ***peaches and cream complexion***. **2** *chiefly US, informal* : a situation, process, etc., that has no trouble or problems ▪ He promised her that if she married him, life would be *peaches and cream*. ▪ We've managed to finish the job, but it hasn't been all *peaches and cream*.

peachy /ˈpi:ʧi/ *adj* **peach•i•er; -est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : like a peach ▪ a *peachy* pink color ▪ a *peachy* flavor

2 *chiefly US, informal* : very good : fine or excellent ▪ That's just *peachy* with me. ▪ For the first few months of their marriage, everything was *peachy*. — often used in an ironic way to describe something that is bad, unpleasant, etc. ▪ "It's starting to rain." "Oh, that's just *peachy*! What are we going to do now?"

peachy keen *adj, chiefly US, informal* : very good : fine or excellent • She acts as if everything in her life is *peachy keen* [=*peachy*], but I don't think she's really happy.

pea•cock /'pi:ˌkɑ:k/ *noun, pl* **-cocks** [*count*] : a large male bird that has a very long bright blue and green tail that it can lift up and spread apart like a fan — see color picture on page C9

pea green *noun* [*noncount*] : a yellowish-green color — see color picture on page C2

[1]peak /'pi:k/ *noun, pl* **peaks** [*count*]

1 a : the pointed top of a mountain • a line of rocky *peaks* **b** : a tall mountain with a pointed or narrow top • Pikes *Peak* in Colorado — see color picture on page C7 **c** : something that looks like a pointed top of a mountain • the *peak* of the roof • The recipe says to beat the cream until it forms soft/stiff *peaks*.

2 : the highest level or degree of excellence, quantity, activity, etc. • His cooking is the *peak* of perfection. [=is excellent] • a singer at the *peak* [=*height*] of her popularity • The team was at its *peak* [=played best] in the 1980s. • At her *peak* she was writing a new novel every year. • Violence reached a *peak* just before the election. • The graph shows that murders in the city declined from a *peak* of 173 in 2004. • There are ***peaks and valleys*** [=very high and very low levels] in electricity usage during the summer.

3 *chiefly Brit* : the front part of a cap or hat that shades the eyes : VISOR

[2]peak *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : at the highest point or level • He is in *peak* [=*top, excellent*] physical condition. • *peak* [=best possible] engine performance • The factory has been running at *peak* capacity for the past year.

2 : filled with the most activity • Phone calls cost more during *peak* calling hours. [=the time period when most calls are made] • the *peak* season for fishing • *peak* [=*prime*] television viewing time — opposite OFF-PEAK

[3]peak *verb* **peaks; peaked; peak•ing** [*no obj*] : to reach the highest level • Electricity usage *peaks* during the summer. • The singer's popularity *peaked* years ago. [=he is not as popular now] • The stock price *peaked* several months ago at 30 dollars per share.

[1]peaked /'pi:kt/ *adj* : having a peak • a *peaked* [=*pointed*] roof • (*chiefly Brit*) a *peaked* cap — compare [2]PEAKED

[2]peak•ed /'pi:kəd/ *adj, US, informal* : pale and sick • She looks a bit *peaked* today. — compare [1]PEAKED

peaky /'pi:ki/ *adj, Brit, informal* : pale and sick : PEAKED • He's looking a bit *peaky*.

peal /'pi:l/ *noun, pl* **peals** [*count*]

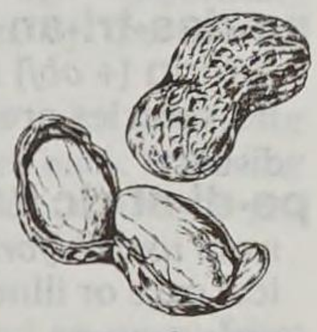
1 : the loud ringing of bells • the *peal* of wedding bells

2 : a loud sound or series of sounds • *peals* of laughter • a *peal* of thunder

– peal *verb* **peals; pealed; peal•ing** [*no obj*] • Bells *pealed* as the wedding ceremony ended.

pea•nut /'pi:ˌnʌt/ *noun, pl* **-nuts**

1 [*count*] : a nut with a thin shell that grows under the ground and that can be eaten • roasted *peanuts* — often used before another noun • *peanut* oil — called also (*Brit*) *groundnut*



peanut

2 *peanuts* [*plural*] *informal* : a very small amount of money • Five billion dollars is *peanuts* compared to what the government spends each year. • He works all day for *peanuts*.

peanut butter *noun* [*noncount*] : a creamy food made from peanuts • a jar of *peanut butter* • a *peanut butter* and jelly sandwich

pear /'peɚ/ *noun, pl* **pears** [*count*] : a sweet fruit that is narrow near the stem and rounded at the other end and that grows on a tree; *also* : the tree that this fruit grows on — see color picture on page C5; see also PRICKLY PEAR

pearl /'pɚl/ *noun, pl* **pearls**

1 [*count*] : a hard, shiny, white ball that is formed inside the shell of an oyster and that is often used as jewelry • She wore a string of *pearls*. • a *pearl* necklace • *pearl* earrings — see color picture on page C11

2 [*noncount*] : MOTHER-OF-PEARL

3 [*count*] : something that is shaped like a pearl • *Pearls* of dew glistened on the grass. • *pearl* onions

4 [*count*] : someone or something that is very good or admired • She was a *pearl* among swine. • The island is a cultural *pearl* of the Pacific.

cast/throw pearls before swine : to give or offer something valuable to someone who does not understand its value

pearls of wisdom : wise words or statements • He offered some *pearls of wisdom* [=good advice] about raising children. • (*humorous*) A crowd of reporters gathered around the coach after the game to hear him dispense his usual *pearls of wisdom*.

pearly /'pɚli/ *adj* : having the shiny, white color of pearls • Her teeth were *pearly* white. • (*informal*) Don't forget to brush your ***pearly whites***. [=*teeth*]

Pearly Gates *noun*

the Pearly Gates *informal + humorous* : a pair of gates thought of as the place through which people enter heaven when they die

pear–shaped /'peɚˌʃeɪpt/ *adj* : shaped like a pear • a *pear-shaped* fruit • She has a *pear-shaped* figure. [=she has wide hips and thighs and a small chest]

go pear-shaped *Brit, informal* : to go wrong • She was in debt, and when she lost her job it all *went pear-shaped*.

peas•ant /'pɛzn̩t/ *noun, pl* **-ants** [*count*]

1 : a poor farmer or farm worker who has low social status — used especially to refer to poor people who lived in Europe in the past or to poor people who live in some countries around the world today • This land was farmed for centuries by *peasants*. — often used before another noun • *peasant* farmers • a *peasant* community/girl • *peasant* food [=good food that is made with simple ingredients and that is not fancy]

2 *disapproving* : a person who is not educated and has low social status • They treated us like a bunch of *peasants*.

peas•ant•ry /'pɛzn̩tri/ *noun*

the peasantry : all the peasants living in an area or country • He tried to organize *the peasantry* for a revolt. • *the* Russian *peasantry*

pease pudding /'pi:z-/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : a soft food made by boiling dried peas

pea soup *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : a thick soup made of boiled dried peas

2 *informal* — used to describe heavy and thick fog • fog as thick as *pea soup* = *pea-soup* fog

pea–soup•er /ˌpi:'supɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *Brit, old-fashioned + informal* : a very heavy and thick fog • The fog was very bad—a real *pea-souper*.

peat /'pi:t/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a dark material made of decaying plants that is burned for heat or added to garden soil

– peaty /'pi:ti/ *adj* **peat•i•er; -est** • *peaty* ground

peat moss *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : a type of moss that usually grows on wet land and that is used by gardeners as a fertilizer, for growing plants in pots, etc. — called also *sphagnum, sphagnum moss*

peb•ble /'pɛbəl/ *noun, pl* **peb•bles** [*count*] : a small, round stone; *especially* : one that has been made smooth by the movement of water • *pebbles* in the stream

– peb•bly /'pɛbəli/ *adj* • a *pebbly* beach [=a beach with many pebbles]

pe•can /pɪ'kɑ:n, 'pi:ˌkæn, *Brit* pɪ'kæn, 'pi:kən/ *noun, pl* **-cans** [*count*] : a nut that grows on a tall tree in the United States and Mexico and that can be eaten • *pecan* pie — see picture at NUT

pec•ca•dil•lo /ˌpɛkə'dɪloʊ/ *noun, pl* **-loes** *or* **-los** [*count*] : a small mistake or fault that is not regarded as very bad or serious • a politician's sexual *peccadillos*

[1]peck /'pɛk/ *verb* **pecks; pecked; peck•ing**

1 *of a bird* **a** : to strike sharply at something with the beak [*no obj*] — + *at* • A crow *pecked at* the lawn, hunting for bugs. [+ *obj*] The hen *pecked* my finger. **b** [+ *obj*] : to make (something) by pecking with the beak • The woodpecker *pecked* a hole in the tree.

2 [+ *obj*] : to kiss (someone) lightly and quickly • He *pecked* his wife on the cheek as he headed out the door.

peck at [*phrasal verb*] ***peck at (something)*** : to take small bites of (food) • Her son *pecked at* his food and said he wasn't hungry.

– see also HUNT-AND-PECK

[2]peck *noun, pl* **pecks** [*count*]

1 : the act of pecking something : a quick, sharp strike with the beak • The bird took a *peck* at the corn. [=the bird pecked the corn]

2 *informal* : a quick kiss • She gave her son a *peck* on the cheek.

– compare [3]PECK

P

[3]peck *noun, pl* **pecks** [*count*] : a unit for measuring an amount of fruit, vegetables, or grain that is equal to about 8.8 liters in the U.S. and about 9.1 liters in the U.K. — compare [2]PECK

peck•er /ˈpɛkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *US, informal + offensive* : PENIS

keep your pecker up *Brit, informal* : to stay happy or hopeful

pecking order *noun, pl* ~ **-ders** [*count*] : the way in which people or things in a group or organization are placed in a series of levels with different importance or status ▪ As an assistant manager, he was pretty low in the company's *pecking order*. ▪ the *pecking order* of Washington politics

peck•ish /ˈpɛkɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal*

1 *chiefly Brit* : slightly hungry ▪ If you're feeling *peckish*, there's some cheese in the fridge.

2 *US* : irritated or annoyed ▪ a *peckish* tone of voice

pecs /ˈpɛks/ *noun* [*plural*] *informal* : PECTORALS ▪ a bodybuilder with great *pecs*

pec•tin /ˈpɛktən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a substance in some fruits that makes fruit jellies thick when the fruit is cooked

pec•to•ral /ˈpɛktərəl/ *adj, technical* : relating to or located on the chest ▪ *pectoral* muscles

pec•to•rals /ˈpɛktərəlz/ *noun* [*plural*] : the muscles of the chest — called also (*informal*) *pecs*

pe•cu•liar /pɪˈkju:ljɚ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : not usual or normal : STRANGE ▪ It seems *peculiar* that he would leave town and not tell anybody. ▪ The dog's *peculiar* behavior worried them. ▪ She got a *peculiar* feeling when the phone rang. ▪ She had a *peculiar* expression on her face.

2 *not used before a noun, Brit, informal* : not well : somewhat ill ▪ He's feeling *peculiar*.

peculiar to : of, relating to, or found in (only one person, thing, or place) ▪ a custom *peculiar to* America [=a custom that is found only in America]

– **pe•cu•liar•ly** *adv* ▪ The movie has a *peculiarly* [=*distinctively, uniquely, particularly*] American quality. ▪ He's been behaving *peculiarly*. [=(more commonly) *strangely, oddly*]

pe•cu•liar•i•ty /pɪˌkju:lˈjerəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being unusual or peculiar ▪ the *peculiarity* of his appearance

2 [*count*] : something that is unusual or peculiar in a person or thing ▪ It is a *peculiarity* of the house that there is no front door. ▪ her *peculiarities* as a writer ▪ Scientists tried to explain some *peculiarities* in the results of the experiment.

pe•cu•ni•ary /pɪˈkju:niˌeri, *Brit* pɪˈkju:nri/ *adj, formal* : relating to or in the form of money ▪ the hope of *pecuniary* [=(more commonly) *financial*] reward ▪ *pecuniary* losses

ped•a•gog•i•cal /ˌpɛdəˈgɑ:ʤɪkəl/ *also* **ped•a•gog•ic** /ˌpɛdəˈgɑ:ʤɪk/ *adj, formal* : of or relating to teachers or education ▪ *pedagogical* methods/practices

– **ped•a•gog•i•cal•ly** /ˌpɛdəˈgɑ:ʤɪkli/ *adv*

ped•a•gogue /ˈpɛdəˌgɑ:g/ *noun, pl* **-gogues** [*count*] *formal + old-fashioned* : TEACHER

ped•a•go•gy /ˈpɛdəgoʊʤi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the art, science, or profession of teaching

[1]ped•al /ˈpɛdl̩/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*]

1 : a flat piece of metal, rubber, etc., that you push with your foot to make a machine move, work, or stop ▪ a bike's *pedals* ▪ a car's ***gas/brake pedal*** — see picture at BICYCLE

2 : a lever on a piano, organ, etc., that you push with your foot to make or change a sound

put the pedal to the metal *US, informal* **1** : to drive very fast **2** : to work very quickly ▪ We are going to have to *put the pedal to the metal* if we want to finish on time.

[2]pedal *verb* **-als**; *US* **-aled** *or Brit* **-alled**; *US* **-al•ing** *or Brit* **-al•ling**

1 : to push the pedals of (something, such as a bicycle) [+ *obj*] *pedal* a bike [*no obj*] He was *pedaling* as fast as he could.

2 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to ride a bicycle to a particular place ▪ He *pedaled* down to the store.

pedal boat *noun, pl* ~ **boats** [*count*] : PADDLEBOAT 1

ped•a•lo /ˈpɛdəˌloʊ/ *noun, pl* **-los** [*count*] *Brit* : PADDLEBOAT 1

pedal pushers *noun* [*plural*] *old-fashioned* : girls' or women's pants that go down to a part of the leg that is a short distance below the knee

pedal steel *noun, pl* ~ **steels** [*count*] : a musical instrument that has strings which are plucked while being pressed with a movable steel bar and a pedal that can change the pitch of the strings — called also *pedal steel guitar, steel guitar*

ped•ant /ˈpɛdn̩t/ *noun, pl* **-ants** [*count*] *disapproving* : a person who annoys other people by correcting small errors and giving too much attention to minor details ▪ a dull *pedant*

– **pe•dan•tic** /pɪˈdæntɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *pedantic* teacher ▪ a *pedantic* insistence on following the rules exactly – **pe•dan•ti•cal•ly** /pɪˈdæntɪkli/ *adv* – **ped•ant•ry** /ˈpɛdn̩tri/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ His instructions were precise to the point of *pedantry*.

ped•dle /ˈpɛdl̩/ *verb* **ped•dles**; **ped•dled**; **ped•dling** [+ *obj*]

1 : to sell (something) usually in small amounts and often by traveling to different places ▪ They *peddled* fruits and vegetables out of their truck on the side of the road. ▪ She now ***peddles her wares*** [=sells her products] on the Internet.

2 : to try to get people to accept or believe (something) ▪ He *peddled* his idea for a new movie to every executive in Hollywood. ▪ The mayor's aides tried to *peddle* his innocence to reporters. ▪ *peddling* gossip

ped•dler /ˈpɛdlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-dlers** [*count*]

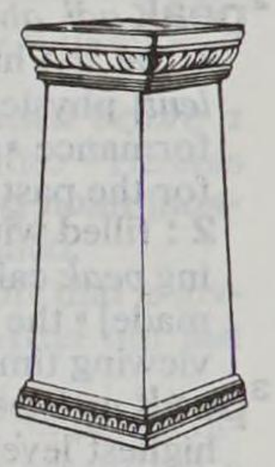
1 *US* : someone who sells things in small amounts often by traveling to different places : a person who peddles something ▪ a poor street *peddler* [=(*Brit*) *pedlar*] ▪ a *fruit* peddler

2 : a person who sells illegal drugs ▪ The police are trying to get drug *peddlers* off the streets. = (*Brit*) The police are trying to get *peddlers* off the street.

ped•es•tal /ˈpɛdəstl̩/ *noun, pl* **-tals** [*count*]

1 : the base of a column or other tall object ▪ the *pedestal of* a vase/lamp/statue

2 — used to describe the position of someone who is admired, successful, etc. ▪ Her boyfriend ***put/placed her on a pedestal*** [=thought of her as a perfect person with no faults] ▪ He wanted a career as an actor, but he didn't want to be *put on a pedestal*. [=to be treated like a big star] ▪ They're trying to ***knock the champions off their pedestal*** [=to defeat the champions]



pedestal

[1]pe•des•tri•an /pəˈdɛstrijən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*] : a person who is walking in a city, along a road, etc. ▪ The car slid off the road and almost hit a group of *pedestrians*.

[2]pedestrian *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not interesting or unusual : ORDINARY ▪ He lived a *pedestrian* life, working at the paper mill and living in his trailer. ▪ *pedestrian* concerns like paying the bills and getting the kids to school on time

2 *always used before a noun* : relating to or designed for people who are walking ▪ This area has a lot of *pedestrian* traffic. [=there are a lot of pedestrians in this area] ▪ a *pedestrian* mall

pedestrian crossing *noun, pl* ~ **-ings** [*count*] *formal* : CROSSWALK

pe•des•tri•an•ise /pəˈdɛstrijəˌnaɪz/ *verb* **-is•es**; **-ised**; **-is•ing** [+ *obj*] *Brit* : to change (an area, street, etc.) so that no vehicles are allowed ▪ the city's *pedestrianised* shopping district

pe•di•at•ric (*US*) *or Brit* **pae•di•at•ric** /ˌpi:diˈætrɪk/ *adj, always used before a noun, medical* : of or relating to the medical care or illnesses of children ▪ *pediatric* treatment ▪ a *pediatric* surgeon

pe•di•a•tri•cian (*US*) *or Brit* **pae•di•a•tri•cian** /ˌpi:dijəˈtrɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-cians** [*count*] : a doctor who treats babies and children

pe•di•at•rics (*US*) *or Brit* **pae•di•at•rics** /ˌpi:diˈætrɪks/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a branch of medicine that deals with the development, care, and diseases of babies and children ▪ a doctor who specializes in *pediatrics*

ped•i•cure /ˈpɛdɪˌkjɚ/ *noun, pl* **-cures** [*count*] : a treatment to improve the appearance and health of the feet or toenails ▪ She's getting a *pedicure* tomorrow. — compare MANICURE

ped•i•gree /ˈpɛdəˌgri:/ *noun, pl* **-grees**

1 : the history of the family members in a person's or animal's past especially when it is good or impressive [*count*] That horse has an impressive *pedigree*. ▪ Her husband has a noble/aristocratic *pedigree*. [=the people in his family were noble/aristocratic] ▪ What is the dog's *pedigree*? [*noncount*] The puppy came with papers proving its *pedigree*.

2 : the origin and history of something especially when it is good or impressive [*count*] a painting's *pedigree* ▪ Democracy is an idea with a *pedigree* stretching back to ancient

Greece. ▪ The company has an excellent *pedigree* with over a century in the business. [*noncount*] She wants to go to a school with *pedigree*. [=a school that has a long and impressive history]
– **ped·i·greed** /ˈpɛdəˌgri:d/ *or* **pedigree** *adj* ▪ a *pedigreed* horse/school/family

ped·i·ment /ˈpɛdəmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] : a triangular area on the face of a building below the roof, above an entrance, etc.

ped·lar /ˈpɛdlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-lars** [*count*] *Brit* : PEDDLER 1

pe·dom·e·ter /pɪˈdɑ:mədɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a device that measures the distance a person travels by walking

pe·do·phile (*US*) *or Brit* **pae·do·phile** /ˈpɛdəˌfajəl, *Brit* ˈpi:dəˌfajəl/ *noun, pl* **-philes** [*count*] : a person who has a sexual interest in children

pe·do·phil·ia (*US*) *or Brit* **pae·do·phil·ia** /ˌpɛdəˈfɪlijə, *Brit* ˌpi:dəˈfɪlijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : sexual feelings or activities that involve children

pee /ˈpi:/ *noun, informal*
1 [*noncount*] : URINE
2 [*singular*] : an act of passing urine from the body ▪ Does she have to ***take a pee***? = (*Brit*) Does she have to ***have a pee***? = (*Brit*) Does she have to ***go for a pee***?
– **pee** *verb* **pees**; **peed**; **pee·ing** [*no obj*] ▪ The dog *peed* [=*urinated*] on the floor.

peek /ˈpi:k/ *verb* **peeks**; **peeked**; **peek·ing** [*no obj*]
1 a : to look at someone or something secretly especially from a hidden place ▪ A little girl *peeked* around the corner of the chair at him. ▪ She *peeked* [=*peered*] through a hole in the fence. ▪ Close your eyes, and no *peeking*! **b** : to look at something briefly ▪ She *peeked* ahead to the next chapter to see what happened next. ▪ He allowed some of his friends to *peek* at his next painting.
2 : to show slightly : to be slightly visible — usually + *out* ▪ Her slip *peeked out* from beneath her skirt. [=a small part of her slip could be seen beneath her skirt]
– **peek** *noun, pl* **peeks** [*count*] ▪ Take another *peek* at the cake in the oven to see if it's done. ▪ They tried to ***sneak a peek*** at the actors getting ready behind the curtain. ▪ We saw a ***sneak peek*** [=a brief showing] of the movie that will be released next month.

peek·a·boo /ˈpi:kəˌbu:/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a game played with a baby in which you cover and then uncover your face and say "Peekaboo!" ▪ play *peekaboo* — called also (*Brit*) *peepbo*

[1]peel /ˈpi:l/ *verb* **peels**; **peeled**; **peel·ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to remove the skin from (a fruit, vegetable, etc.) ▪ *peel* an apple ▪ *peel* the cucumbers
2 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [+ *obj*] : to remove (a covering, shell, etc.) from something ▪ They *peeled* back the sheet to display the new sculpture. — often + *from* ▪ An animal had *peeled* the bark *from* the tree. ▪ We had to *peel* the wallpaper *from* the wall. — often + *off* ▪ (*informal*) Guests *peeled off* [=*took off*] their wet coats by the door. ▪ They *peeled* the old wallpaper *off*.
3 [*no obj*] **a** : to come off in pieces ▪ The paint is *peeling* (off). ▪ She got sunburned and the skin on her back is *peeling* (off). **b** : to lose an outer layer of skin, bark, etc. ▪ She got sunburned and her back is *peeling*.
keep your eyes peeled see [1]EYE
peel off [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to turn and go away from something quickly ▪ One of the jets *peeled off* from the formation and headed back.
peel out [*phrasal verb*] *US, informal* : to speed away from a place in a car, on a motorcycle, etc. ▪ Dirt and gravel flew as he *peeled out* into the street.
– **peel·er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a potato/vegetable *peeler*

[2]peel *noun, pl* **peels** [*count*] : the skin of a fruit ▪ a banana *peel* ▪ an orange *peel* — see color picture on page C5

[1]peep /ˈpi:p/ *noun, pl* **peeps**
1 [*count*] : a quick, high sound that is made by a young bird or that is like the sound made by a young bird ▪ the *peep* of a chick
2 [*singular*] *informal* : a word or sound ▪ I don't want to hear a single *peep* out of you. ▪ We didn't hear a *peep* coming from his office. ▪ They accepted her decision with hardly a *peep* of protest.
– see also PEEPS

[2]peep *verb* **peeps**; **peeped**; **peep·ing** [*no obj*] : to make a quick, high sound : to make a peep ▪ I heard a chick *peep*. ▪ a *peeping* sound — compare [3]PEEP

[3]peep *verb* **peeps**; **peeped**; **peeping**
1 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to look very quickly at someone or something ▪ I'll just *peep* [=*peek*] in the room to see if the baby is sleeping. ▪ He *peeped* [=*peered*] through a hole in the fence.
2 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to show slightly : to be slightly visible ▪ Early spring flowers were *peeping* through the snow.
3 [+ *obj*] *slang* : to look at or see (someone or something) ▪ We *peeped* [=*saw*] him at the restaurant. ▪ *Peep* this [=check this out]—I've got two tickets for the show.
– compare [2]PEEP

peep·bo /ˈpi:pˌboʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : PEEKABOO

peep·er /ˈpi:pɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a type of small American frog that makes a peeping sound — called also *spring peeper*

peep·hole /ˈpi:pˌhoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-holes** [*count*] : a hole that is used to look through something (such as a door) to the other side

peeping Tom *noun, pl* ~ **Toms** [*count*] : a person who secretly looks into other people's windows to see them naked

peeps /ˈpi:ps/ *noun* [*plural*] *US slang* : people and especially the people who are your friends ▪ just me and my *peeps*

peep show *noun, pl* ~ **shows** [*count*] : a show in which someone looks into a box, room, etc., through a small hole or window and sees pictures or a performance usually involving sex

[1]peer /ˈpiɚ/ *noun, pl* **peers** [*count*]
1 : a person who belongs to the same age group or social group as someone else ▪ his academic *peers* [=people in the same grade or level of school] ▪ He was respected and admired by his *peers*. ▪ teenagers spending time with their ***peer groups*** ▪ (*chiefly US, law*) You have the right to be tried by ***a jury of your peers***. [=a jury whose members are from the same community as you]
2 : a member of the British nobility — see also LIFE PEER

[2]peer *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **peers**; **peered**; **peer·ing** [*no obj*] : to look closely or carefully especially because something or someone is difficult to see ▪ She *peered* into the dark closet looking for her missing shoe. ▪ He *peered* down the well. ▪ An animal *peered* out from the woods next to their camp. ▪ He *peered* over the fence.

peer·age /ˈpirɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ages** *formal*
1 ***the peerage*** : the people who are members of the British nobility : the people who are peers
2 [*count*] : the rank of a British peer ▪ He was given the *peerage* after years of devoted service to the community.

peer·ess /ˈpirəs/ *noun, pl* **-ess·es** [*count*]
1 : a woman who is a member of the British nobility
2 : the wife or widow of a peer (sense 2)

peer·less /ˈpiɚləs/ *adj* : having no equal : better than all others ▪ As an athlete he is *peerless*.

peer pressure *noun* [*noncount*] : a feeling that you must do the same things as other people of your age and social group in order to be liked or respected by them ▪ She started drinking in high school because of *peer pressure*.

peer review *noun* [*noncount*] : a process by which a scholarly work (such as a paper or a research proposal) is checked by a group of experts in the same field to make sure it meets the necessary standards before it is published or accepted

peeve /ˈpi:v/ *noun, pl* **peeves** [*count*] : something that annoys someone ▪ One of her *peeves* is people who are always late. — see also PET PEEVE

peeved /ˈpi:vd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : angry or annoyed ▪ He's *peeved* at me because I borrowed his car without asking. ▪ Her boss was *peeved* by/about the mistakes she made with the customer's order. ▪ I'm feeling pretty *peeved*.

pee·vish /ˈpi:vɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling or showing irritation ▪ a *peevish* frown ▪ *peevish* patients in the doctor's waiting room
– **pee·vish·ly** *adv* ▪ "I didn't do anything wrong," he answered *peevishly*. – **pee·vish·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]peg /ˈpɛg/ *noun, pl* **pegs** [*count*]
1 : a small piece of wood, metal, or other material that is used to hold or fasten things or to hang things on ▪ Her coat hung on a *peg* by the door. ▪ a ***tent peg*** [=a pointed piece of wood or metal that is pushed into the ground to hold the corners of a tent in position]
2 : a wooden piece in a musical instrument (such as a violin) that is turned to tighten or loosen a string ▪ a ***tuning peg***
3 *Brit* : CLOTHESPIN
a peg to hang something on *Brit* : something (such as a

fact or issue) that is used as support or a reason for something said or done ▪ He used the incident as *a peg to hang* his theory *on*.

a square peg in a round hole : someone who does not fit in a particular place or situation ▪ She felt like *a square peg in a round hole* at the new school until she made some new friends.

off the peg *Brit* : in a store where clothes are sold in different sizes that are not made to fit a particular person ▪ He bought that suit *off the peg*. [=(*US*) *off the rack*] — see also OFF-THE-PEG

take/knock/bring someone down a peg : to make (someone) feel less important or proud ▪ He was *taken down a peg* when an even better player joined the team. ▪ She needs to be *taken down a peg*. [=*humbled*]

[2]peg *verb* **pegs; pegged; peg•ging** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to fasten (something) with pegs ▪ Is the tent *pegged* down all the way? ▪ (*Brit*) She was outside *pegging* the laundry to the clothesline. **b** : to put a peg into (something) ▪ He *pegged* the boards.

2 a : to keep (something, such as a price) at a particular level or rate ▪ *peg* the price of wheat at its current level **b** : to link (something) to another amount or value ▪ The foreign currency is *pegged* to the U.S. dollar. [=its value changes when the U.S. dollar's value does] ▪ His bonus is *pegged* to how many sales he makes each year for the company.

3 *informal* : to think of or identify (someone) as a certain kind of person ▪ The salesman ***had me pegged*** [=understood what kind of person I am] in a matter of minutes. — usually + *as* ▪ She *pegged* him right away *as* a nice guy. — sometimes + *for* ▪ She had him *pegged for* a liar.

4 *US, informal* : [1]THROW ▪ He *pegged* the ball to first base.

peg away [*phrasal verb*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : to work hard — usually + *at* ▪ He sat there *pegging away at* his homework.

peg out [*phrasal verb*] *Brit, informal* : to die ▪ He doesn't want to *peg out* because of somebody else's mistakes.

peg leg *noun, pl* ~ **legs** [*count*] *old-fashioned + informal* : an artificial leg usually made of wood and attached at the knee

pe•jo•ra•tive /pɪ'ʤɔrətɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : insulting to someone or something : expressing criticism ▪ a *pejorative* term ▪ a word with *pejorative* connotations
– **pejorative** *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*] ▪ a word that is used as a *pejorative* [=an insulting word] – **pe•jo•ra•tive•ly** *adv* ▪ The word is often used *pejoratively*.

Pe•king•ese *or* **Pe•kin•ese** /ˌpi:kə'ni:z/ *noun, pl* **Pekingese** *or* **Pekinese** [*count*] : a small dog with a flat face and long, soft fur

pe•lag•ic /pə'læʤɪk/ *adj, technical* : relating to or living in the sea far from the shore ▪ *pelagic* fish/birds/waters

pel•i•can /'pɛlɪkən/ *noun, pl* **-cans** [*count*] : a large ocean bird that has a large bag that is part of its lower bill for catching and holding fish — see color picture on page C9

pelican crossing *noun, pl* ~ **-ings** [*count*] *Brit* : a place where a person can stop traffic in order to cross the road by pressing a button that controls the traffic lights

pel•let /'pɛlət/ *noun, pl* **-lets** [*count*]

1 : a small, hard ball of food, medicine, etc. ▪ food *pellets* for rabbits = rabbit *pellets*

2 : a small metal object that is shot from a gun ▪ shotgun *pellets* ▪ a ***pellet gun*** [=a special gun that is designed to shoot pellets]

pell–mell /ˌpɛl'mɛl/ *adv* : in a confused and hurried way ▪ a car racing *pell-mell* through the streets
– **pell–mell** *adj* ▪ the *pell-mell* pace of modern life

pel•lu•cid /pə'lu:səd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *literary* : very clear ▪ *pellucid* water ▪ *pellucid* prose

pel•met /'pɛlmət/ *noun, pl* **-mets** [*count*] *Brit* : VALANCE 1

pel•o•ton /'pɛlə,tɑ:n/ *noun, pl* **-tons** [*count*] : the main group of riders in a bicycle race ▪ He broke away from the *peloton* and sprinted into the lead.

[1]pelt /'pɛlt/ *verb* **pelts; pelt•ed; pelt•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to repeatedly hit (someone or something) with things thrown from a distance ▪ Rioters *pelted* the police. — often + *with* ▪ The boys *pelted* the building *with* rocks.

2 [+ *obj*] : to hit against (something) repeatedly ▪ Rain *pelted* the windowpanes. ▪ the *pelting* rain

3 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to move very quickly ▪ The children came *pelting* down the street. ▪ We were *pelting* along.

[2]pelt *noun, pl* **pelts** [*count*] : the skin of a dead animal especially with its hair, wool, or fur still on it ▪ a lion's *pelt*

pel•vic /'pɛlvɪk/ *adj* : relating to or located in or near the pelvis ▪ *pelvic* bones ▪ a *pelvic* exam [=an examination of the pelvis and the organs in it]

pel•vis /'pɛlvəs/ *noun, pl* **-vis•es** [*count*] : the wide curved bones between the spine and the leg bones — see picture at HUMAN

[1]pen /'pɛn/ *noun, pl* **pens** : a writing instrument that uses ink [*count*] She signed her name with a *pen*. [*noncount*] She signed her name ***in pen***. — compare PENCIL

put/set pen to paper : to write or begin to write something ▪ She thought about writing a novel for several years before she finally *put pen to paper*.
– compare [3]PEN, [5]PEN

[2]pen *verb* **pens; penned; pen•ning** [+ *obj*] : to write (something) ▪ *pen* a letter ▪ She *penned* a novel. ▪ a poem *penned* by Shakespeare — compare [4]PEN

[3]pen *noun, pl* **pens** [*count*] : a small enclosed area for farm animals ▪ a sheep *pen* — compare [1]PEN, [5]PEN

[4]pen *verb* **pens; penned; pen•ning** [+ *obj*] : to put or keep (a person or animal) in an enclosed area — usually used as *(be) penned* ▪ They *were penned* behind a wooden fence. ▪ cattle *penned* in the barn

pen in/up [*phrasal verb*] ***pen (someone or something) in/up*** : to put or keep (a person or animal) in an enclosed area : to prevent (someone or something) from moving beyond a particular area — usually used as *(be) penned in/up* ▪ Several dogs *were penned up* [=*penned*] behind the house. ▪ The men *were penned up* [=*trapped*] on the ship for months. — often used figuratively ▪ She felt *penned in* by their relationship.
– compare [2]PEN

[5]pen *noun*

the pen *US, informal* : PRISON ▪ He was sent to *the pen* [=the penitentiary] for armed robbery.
– compare [1]PEN, [3]PEN

pe•nal /'pi:nl/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* : relating to or used for punishment ▪ *penal* laws ▪ a ***penal institution*** [=*prison*] ▪ a ***penal colony*** [=a place where prisoners are sent to live]

2 *Brit* : very severe ▪ *penal* interest rates

penal code *noun, pl* ~ **codes** [*count*] *law* : a set of laws relating to crimes and the punishments for those crimes

pe•nal•ize *also Brit* **pe•nal•ise** /'pi:nə,laɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es; -ized; -iz•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to punish (someone or something) for breaking a rule or a law ▪ The company was *penalized* for not paying taxes. ▪ The hockey player was *penalized* for holding.

2 : to give (someone) an unfair disadvantage ▪ This law would unfairly *penalize* immigrants.

pen•al•ty /'pɛnḷti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 : punishment for breaking a rule or law [*count*] The company was given/assessed a severe/stiff *penalty* for the violation. ▪ They allowed him to pay back the money without a *penalty*. [*noncount*] They allowed him to pay back the money without *penalty*. — see also DEATH PENALTY

2 [*count*] : a disadvantage or difficulty you experience ▪ Lack of privacy is one of the *penalties* you pay for fame.

3 [*count*] : a punishment or disadvantage given to a team or player for breaking a rule in a game ▪ The hockey player was given/assessed a *penalty* for holding.

pay the penalty see [1]PAY

penalty box *noun, pl* ~ **boxes** [*count*] : the area beside an ice hockey rink where a player who has been given a penalty sits for a certain amount of time

penalty kick *noun, pl* ~ **kicks** [*count*] : a kick in soccer or rugby that a player makes when the other team has broken a rule

penalty shot *noun, pl* ~ **shots** [*count*] : a shot in hockey that a player makes when the other team has broken a rule

pen•ance /'pɛnəns/ *noun* : something that you do or are given to do in order to show that you are sad or sorry about doing something wrong [*noncount*] She did/performed (an act of) *penance* for her sins. [*singular*] He did charitable work as a *penance*.

pence *Brit plural of* PENNY

pen•chant /'pɛnʧənt/ *noun, pl* **-chants** [*count*] : a strong liking for something or a strong tendency to behave in a certain way — usually + *for* ▪ He has a *penchant for* asking stupid questions. [=he asks a lot of stupid questions] ▪ Her *penchant for* mathematics helped her to become an engineer.

[1]pen•cil /ˈpɛnsəl/ *noun, pl* **-cils** : an instrument used for writing and drawing that has a hard outer part and a black or colored center part [*count*] Use a *pencil* instead of a pen so you can erase your mistakes. [*noncount*] Write your answers ***in pencil***. [=using a pencil] — often used before another noun ▪ a *pencil* sketch ▪ a ***pencil sharpener*** [=a device used to make the tip of a pencil sharp so that it can be used for writing] ▪ a ***pencil case*** [=a small box for holding pencils and other small items, such as erasers] — see picture at OFFICE; compare PEN

[2]pencil *verb, pl* **-cils**; *US* **-ciled** *or Brit* **-cilled**; *US* **-cil•ing** *or Brit* **-cil•ling** [+ *obj*] : to draw or write (something) with a pencil ▪ He *penciled* some notes on a piece of paper.

pencil in [*phrasal verb*] ***pencil (someone or something) in*** *or* ***pencil in (someone or something)*** : to put (someone or something that may be changed later) on a schedule, list, etc. ▪ Would you like me to *pencil* you *in* [=to schedule you] for Thursday morning at 11? — sometimes used figuratively ▪ He was *penciled in* as the director's replacement.

pencil pusher *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *US, informal* : PAPER PUSHER

pen•dant /ˈpɛndənt/ *noun, pl* **-dants** [*count*] : a piece of jewelry that hangs on a chain or a cord which is worn around your neck — see color picture on page C11

pen•dent *or* **pen•dant** /ˈpɛndənt/ *adj, formal* : hanging down from above ▪ a *pendent* light fixture

[1]pend•ing /ˈpɛndɪŋ/ *prep, formal* : while waiting for (something) ▪ He is being held in jail *pending* trial. ▪ She received a four-year sentence and is currently out on bail *pending* appeal.

[2]pending *adj, formal*

1 : not yet decided or acted on ▪ bills *pending* in Congress ▪ a *pending* visa application ▪ The results of the investigation are *pending*. ▪ There are lawsuits *pending* against the company.

2 : happening or likely to happen soon ▪ the company's *pending* [=*impending*] move to a new location

pen•du•lous /ˈpɛnʤələs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal + literary* : hanging down and swinging freely ▪ *pendulous* silver earrings

– **pen•du•lous•ly** *adv* ▪ blossoms dangling *pendulously* from the branches

pen•du•lum /ˈpɛnʤələm/ *noun, pl* **-lums** [*count*] : a stick with a weight at the bottom that swings back and forth inside a clock — often used figuratively ▪ The fashion *pendulum* swung from silver jewelry to gold and back again. [=silver jewelry was popular for a while, then gold became popular, and then silver became popular again]

pen•e•tra•ble /ˈpɛnətrəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : allowing someone or something to pass through or enter : able to be penetrated ▪ an easily *penetrable* border

– **pen•e•tra•bil•i•ty** /ˌpɛnətrəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

pen•e•trate /ˈpɛnəˌtreɪt/ *verb* **-trates**; **-trat•ed**; **-trat•ing**

1 : to go through or into something [+ *obj*] These bullets can *penetrate* armor. ▪ radiation *penetrating* the Earth's atmosphere [*no obj*] The bullet failed to *penetrate*. ▪ The heat *penetrated* through the wall. ▪ The roots of these plants have been known to *penetrate* to a depth of more than 15 feet.

2 [+ *obj*] : to see or show the way through (something) ▪ Our eyes were unable to *penetrate* the darkness. [=we were unable to see through the darkness] ▪ My car's headlights couldn't *penetrate* the dense fog. ▪ They were unable to ***penetrate his disguise***. [=to see or realize who he really was behind his disguise]

3 [+ *obj*] : to succeed in becoming part of (an organization, a community, etc.) ▪ The movie is about foreign agents who *penetrate* [=*infiltrate*] the CIA. ▪ The company is trying to *penetrate* [=sell its products in] the U.S. market.

4 [+ *obj*] : to succeed in understanding or finding (something) ▪ scientists trying to *penetrate* the secrets hidden in our genes ▪ attempting to *penetrate* the mysteries of human nature

5 : to be understood or noticed by someone [+ *obj*] The truth had not yet *penetrated* my consciousness. [=I had not yet realized the truth] [*no obj*] The truth had not yet *penetrated*.

6 [+ *obj*] *of a man* : to put the penis into the vagina or the anus of (another person) during sex

penetrating *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 a : able to understand something clearly and fully ▪ She is one of our most *penetrating* and provocative critical thinkers. ▪ a *penetrating* mind **b** : helping people to understand something clearly and fully ▪ an author famous for her *penetrating* social commentary ▪ a *penetrating* account of what really happened during the crisis

2 : spreading out deeply or widely ▪ *penetrating* cold ▪ flowers that give off a *penetrating* perfume

3 *of sounds* : loud and clear and sometimes unpleasant ▪ a deep, *penetrating* voice ▪ a baby's *penetrating* wail

4 ✧ People who have ***penetrating eyes*** or a ***penetrating gaze/stare/look*** make you feel uncomfortable by looking at you in a way that makes you feel that they know what you are thinking. ▪ She transfixed me with a *penetrating gaze*.

– **pen•e•trat•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ a *penetratingly* sweet aroma

pen•e•tra•tion /ˌpɛnəˈtreɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 : the act of going through or into something : the act of penetrating something [*noncount*] Cuts in the skin could permit the *penetration* of bacteria into the body. ▪ the *penetration* of the CIA by foreign agents ▪ the *penetration* of the U.S. market by a foreign company [*count*] multiple *penetrations* into enemy territory

2 [*noncount*] *formal* : an ability to understand things clearly and fully ▪ a writer who analyzes the underlying causes of the recession with great *penetration*

pen•e•tra•tive /ˈpɛnəˌtreɪtɪv, *Brit* ˈpɛnətrətɪv/ *adj*

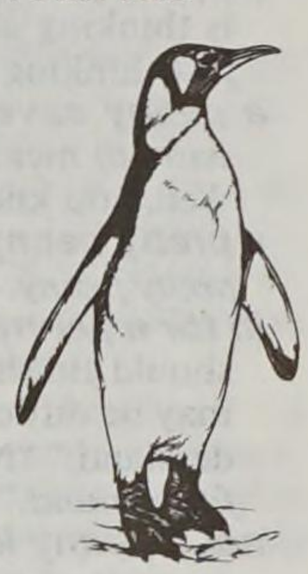
1 — used to describe sexual activity in which a man puts his penis into another person's vagina or anus ▪ *penetrative* sex

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : able to enter or go through something ▪ *penetrative* ammunition

3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : having or showing an ability to understand things clearly and fully ▪ *penetrative* insights

pen friend *noun, pl* ~ **friends** [*count*] *Brit* : PEN PAL

pen•guin /ˈpɛŋgwən/ *noun, pl* **-guins** [*count*] : a black-and-white bird that cannot fly, that uses its wings for swimming, and that lives in or near the Antarctic



penguin

pen•i•cil•lin /ˌpɛnəˈsɪlən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a medicine that is used to kill harmful bacteria

pe•nile /ˈpiːˌnajəl/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : of or relating to the penis ▪ *penile* dysfunction

pen•in•su•la /pəˈnɪnsələ, *Brit* pəˈnɪnsjələ/ *noun, pl* **-las** [*count*] : a piece of land that is almost entirely surrounded by water and is attached to a larger land area ▪ They built their house on a narrow *peninsula*. ▪ the Yucatan *Peninsula* — see color picture on page C7

– **pen•in•su•lar** /pəˈnɪnsələ, *Brit* pəˈnɪnsjələ/ *adj, formal* ▪ the culture of *peninsular* Spain

pe•nis /ˈpiːnəs/ *noun, pl* **-nis•es** [*count*] : the part of the body of men and male animals that is used for sex and through which urine leaves the body

pen•i•tence /ˈpɛnətəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : a feeling of deep sadness because you have done something wrong ▪ Forgiveness requires *penitence*.

[1]pen•i•tent /ˈpɛnətənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : feeling or showing sorrow and regret because you have done something wrong ▪ a *penitent* [=(more commonly) *repentant*] sinner ▪ a *penitent* gesture

[2]penitent *noun, pl* **-tents** [*count*] *formal* : a person who is sorry for doing something wrong and asks for forgiveness : a penitent person ▪ *penitents* seeking God's forgiveness

pen•i•ten•tial /ˌpɛnəˈtɛnʃəl/ *adj, formal* : relating to the feeling of being sorry for doing something wrong : relating to penitence or penance ▪ *penitential* prayers ▪ a *penitential* journey/pilgrimage

pen•i•ten•tia•ry /ˌpɛnəˈtɛnʃəri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] *US* : PRISON — often used in the names of prisons ▪ Colorado State *Penitentiary* ***synonyms*** see [1]JAIL

pen•knife /ˈpɛnˌnaɪf/ *noun, pl* **-knives** [*count*] : a small knife with a folding blade : POCKETKNIFE

pen•light /ˈpɛnˌlaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-lights** [*count*] : a small flashlight that looks like a pen

pen•man•ship /ˈpɛnmənˌʃɪp/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal*

1 : the art or practice of writing by hand ▪ My third grade teacher thought it was important for us to learn *penmanship*.

2 : the quality or style of someone's handwriting ▪ Your poor *penmanship* [=*handwriting*] makes it hard to read your work.

pen name *noun, pl* ~ **names** [*count*] : a name used by a writer instead of the writer's real name ▪ Samuel L. Clemens is better known by his *pen name* "Mark Twain."

pen•nant /ˈpɛnənt/ *noun, pl* **-nants** [*count*]

P

1 : a long, thin, pointed flag ▪ *pennants* waving atop the tower
2 *baseball* : the prize that is awarded to the champions of the American League and the National League each year ▪ The Red Sox won the American League *pennant* in 2004.

pen·ni·less /ˈpɛnɪləs/ *adj* : having no money : very poor ▪ a *penniless* vagrant ▪ She was unemployed and *penniless*.

Penn·syl·va·nia Dutch /ˌpɛnsəlˈveɪnjə-/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a group of people originally from Germany who settled in Pennsylvania in the 18th century
2 : a form of German spoken by the Pennsylvania Dutch

pen·ny /ˈpɛni/ *noun, pl US* **pen·nies** /ˈpɛniz/ *or Brit* **pence** /ˈpɛns/ [*count*]
1 a *pl* ***pennies*** : a coin or a unit of money equal to 1/100 of a dollar : CENT **b** *pl* ***pence*** : a coin or a unit of money equal to 1/100 of a British pound — abbr. *p* **c** *pl* ***pence*** : a British coin used before 1971 that was equal to 1/12 of a shilling — abbr. *p*
2 a : a small amount of money ▪ We got the car for just *pennies*. [=it didn't cost very much] ▪ When you're trying to save money, ***every penny helps/counts***. [=even a small amount of money is important] ▪ Our vacation was expensive, but it was ***worth every penny***. [=it was worth the entire amount that we paid for it] ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) He was trying to ***earn/turn an honest penny***. [=earn money for honest hard work] **b** : the least amount of money ▪ I didn't have a *penny* (to my name). [=I did not have any money at all]
(a) penny for your thoughts — used to ask what someone is thinking about ▪ "*A penny for your thoughts*?" "Oh, I'm just thinking about what I want to do over the weekend."
a penny saved ✧ The saying ***a penny saved (is a penny earned)*** means that it is important to save your money. ▪ Well, you know what they say about *a penny saved*.
a pretty penny : a large amount of money ▪ That will cost *a pretty penny*. [=that will be very expensive]
in for a penny, in for a pound *Brit* — used to say that you should finish what you have started to do even though it may be difficult or expensive ▪ "If you want to quit, I'll understand." "No, I'm sure we can do this. *In for a penny, in for a pound*."
not a penny less/more : no less or no more than a certain amount of money ▪ I'll do the job for 100 dollars and *not a penny less*. [=I won't do the job unless I am paid at least 100 dollars] ▪ I'll pay you 100 dollars and *not a penny more*. [=I'll pay you 100 dollars, but I won't pay you any more than that]
pinch pennies see ¹PINCH
ten a penny see TEN
the penny drops *Brit, informal* — used to say that someone finally understands something after not understanding it for a time ▪ I had to explain it to him three times, but finally *the penny dropped*. [=he understood the explanation]

penny–ante *adj, US, informal* + *disapproving* : not important, valuable, or impressive : SMALL-TIME ▪ a *penny-ante* operation ▪ *penny-ante* politics

penny arcade *noun, pl* ~ **-cades** [*count*] *US* : ARCADE 3

penny candy *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : candy that costs only a few pennies for each piece ▪ bags of *penny candy*

penny loafer *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a shoe without laces that has a strap with a slit that a penny can fit into on the top of the shoe

pen·ny–pinch·ing /ˈpɛniˌpɪntʃɪŋ/ *adj* : not wanting to spend a lot of money : very careful or too careful about spending money ▪ a *penny-pinching* shopper
– **pen·ny–pinch·er** /ˈpɛniˌpɪntʃɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ Her roommate was a real *penny-pincher*.

pen·ny–wise /ˈpɛniˌwaɪz/ *adj*
penny-wise and/but pound-foolish : careful about small amounts of money but not about large amounts — used especially to describe something that is done to save a small amount of money now but that will cost a large amount of money in the future ▪ The administration's plans to cut funding are *penny-wise and pound-foolish*.

pen pal *noun, pl* ~ **pals** [*count*] : a person (such as someone in a foreign country) who you exchange letters with even though you have never met — called also (*Brit*) *pen friend*

pen pusher *noun, pl* ~ **pushers** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : PAPER PUSHER

¹pen·sion /ˈpɛnʃən/ *noun, pl* **-sions** [*count*] : an amount of money that a company or the government pays to a person who is old or sick and no longer works ▪ Her *pension* arrives in the mail every month. ▪ collect/receive a *pension* ▪ retired people living on/off their *pensions* ▪ a job with ***pension benefits*** [=a job that pays a pension after a number of years of employment] ▪ a ***pension fund*** [=money that a company invests in order to earn money to pay pensions]

²pension *verb* **-sions; -sioned; -sion·ing**
pension off [*phrasal verb*] ***pension (someone) off*** *or* ***pension off (someone)*** *chiefly Brit* : to allow or force (an employee) to leave a job and accept a pension ▪ She was *pensioned off* after 35 years with the company. [=she was forced to retire after 35 years with the company]

pen·sion·able /ˈpɛnʃənəbəl/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly Brit* : allowing someone to receive a pension ▪ The factory offered *pensionable* employment. [=a job that includes pension benefits] ▪ Her husband had reached *pensionable* age. [=her husband was old enough to qualify for a pension]

pen·sion·er /ˈpɛnʃənɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a person who receives or lives on a pension; *especially* : a person who receives a government pension ▪ an ***old-age pensioner*** — compare OAP

pension plan *noun, pl* ~ **plans** [*count*] : an arrangement made with an employer to pay money to an employee after retirement ▪ I work for this company because they have a good *pension plan*. — called also (*Brit*) *pension scheme*

pen·sive /ˈpɛnsɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : quietly sad or thoughtful ▪ The child sat by himself, looking *pensive*. ▪ a *pensive* young poet ▪ a *pensive* mood/expression/sigh
– **pen·sive·ly** *adv* ▪ She stared *pensively* out the window.
– **pen·sive·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

pen·ta·gon /ˈpɛntəˌgɑːn/ *noun, pl* **-gons**
1 [*count*] *mathematics* : a flat shape that has five sides and five corners — see picture at GEOMETRY
2 ***the Pentagon*** **a** : the building in Washington, D.C., that is the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense ▪ The general attended a meeting at *the Pentagon*. ▪ *Pentagon* officials **b** : the leaders of the U.S. military ▪ There was disagreement between the President and *the Pentagon* over the new military budget.
– **pen·tag·o·nal** /pɛnˈtægənl/ *adj, mathematics* ▪ a *pentagonal* shape

pent·a·gram /ˈpɛntəˌgræm/ *noun, pl* **-grams** [*count*] : a shape that is like a star with five points formed by five straight lines and that is often used as a magic or religious symbol

pen·tam·e·ter /ˈpɛnˈtæmətɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : a rhythm in poetry that has five stressed syllables in each line ▪ a poem written in iambic *pentameter*

pen·tath·lon /pɛnˈtæθlən/ *noun, pl* **-lons** [*count*] : a sports contest for men that consists of five different events ▪ the winner of the Olympic *pentathlon*
– **pen·tath·lete** /pɛnˈtæθˌliːt/ *noun, pl* **-letes** [*count*] ▪ Olympic *pentathletes*

Pen·te·cost /ˈpɛntɪˌkɑːst/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a Christian holiday on the seventh Sunday after Easter that celebrates the appearance of the Holy Spirit to the apostles — called also (*Brit*) *Whit Sunday*

Pen·te·cos·tal /ˌpɛntɪˈkɑːstl/ *adj* : of, relating to, or belonging to a Christian group that emphasizes the power of the Holy Spirit and the authority of the Bible ▪ a *Pentecostal* church ▪ *Pentecostal* beliefs ▪ She's *Pentecostal*.

pent·house /ˈpɛntˌhaʊs/ *noun, pl* **-hous·es** [*count*] : an apartment on the top floor or roof of a building ▪ a luxurious *penthouse* — often used before another noun ▪ a *penthouse* suite/apartment

pent–up *adj* : held or kept inside : not released ▪ The children were full of *pent-up* energy after the long car ride. ▪ *pent-up* anger/frustration/enthusiasm/excitement

pen·ul·ti·mate /pɪˈnʌltəmət/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : occurring immediately before the last one : next to the last ▪ the *penultimate* chapter of the book [=the chapter that comes before the last chapter] ▪ the *penultimate* syllable of the word

pe·nu·ri·ous /pəˈnɚijəs, *Brit* pəˈnjʊərijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : very poor ▪ *penurious* peasants ▪ The *penurious* school system had to lay off several teachers.

pen·u·ry /ˈpɛnjəri/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the state of being very poor : extreme poverty ▪ struggling with *penury* ▪ living in *penury*

pe·on /ˈpiːˌɑːn/ *noun, pl* **-ons** [*count*]
1 *US* : a person who does hard or boring work for very little

money : a person who is not very important in a society or organization ▪ The new policy changes affect the whole department, from the manager down to the office *peons*. [=the lowest paid workers in the office] ▪ "Those rich politicians don't care about *peons* like us," she complained.

2 : a poor farm worker especially in Latin America

pe•o•ny /'pi:jəni/ *noun, pl* **-nies** [*count*] : a type of plant that has large round red, pink, or white flowers; *also* : the flower

[1]peo•ple /'pi:pəl/ *noun*

1 [*plural*] **a** : individual human beings ✧ This sense of *people* is the plural of *person*. ▪ We met all sorts of *people* on the trip. ▪ rich/poor *people* ▪ The neighbors are nice *people*. ▪ The *people* next door own a dog. **b** : human beings as a group : all or most people ▪ He doesn't care what *people* think of him. [=he doesn't care what anyone thinks of him] ▪ *People* can be really cruel sometimes. ▪ *People* think the coach should be fired. ▪ She tends to annoy *people*. ▪ *People* say it's impossible, but I'm still going to try.

2 [*plural*] : a group of people who share a quality, interest, etc. ▪ a book for young *people* ▪ the American *people* ▪ The environmental *people* [=the people who are interested in protecting the environment] are against the town's plan to build more houses along the river. ▪ city *people* [=people who live in cities] — often used in compounds ▪ business*people* [=people whose jobs involve business] ▪ sales*people*

3 *pl* ***peoples*** [*count*] : a group of people who make up a race, tribe, nation, etc. ▪ a *people* who migrated across the Bering Strait ▪ the native *peoples* of Mexico ▪ *peoples* of Asia

4 a *the people* : the ordinary people in a country who do not have special power or privileges ▪ She is well-liked as a senator because she listens to *the people*. ▪ *the* common *people* ▪ He is a ***man of the people***. [=he is someone who understands or is like ordinary people] **b *the People*** *US, law* — used to refer to the government of the U.S. or of a particular state in the name of a legal case ▪ *The People* vs. John Doe

5 [*plural*] : people who are related to or connected with someone: such as **a** *literary* : people who are ruled or governed by someone ▪ The queen was loved by her *people*. **b** *somewhat old-fashioned* : family members : people you are related to ▪ She is visiting her *people* [=*folks, family*] in Texas. ▪ Where are your *people* from? **c** : the people who work for you or your company, organization, etc. ▪ Our *people* are working hard to restore electricity to the city.

good people *US, informal + old-fashioned* : an honest, helpful, or morally good person ▪ I like him; he's *good people*.

of all people — used to emphasize that a specified person is the person you most or least expect to do or know something ▪ You, *of all people*, should know the answer to this. [=I expect you to know the answer to this] ▪ My best friend, *of all people*, betrayed me. [=I was very surprised that my best friend betrayed me]

[2]people *verb* **peo•ples; peo•pled; peo•pling** [+ *obj*] *formal*

1 *of people* : to live or be in (a place) — usually used as *(be) peopled* ▪ The town *is peopled* [=*inhabited*] almost entirely by factory workers. ▪ a campus *peopled* with students from around the world

2 : to put people in (something, such as a story) — usually used as *(be) peopled* ▪ The story *is peopled* with odd characters. [=the characters in the story are odd]

people carrier *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *Brit* : MINIVAN

people mover *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*]

1 *US* : a vehicle or moving surface that is used to take groups of people from one place to another ▪ The airport has a *people mover* to bring passengers to the far terminals.

2 *Brit* : MINIVAN

people person *noun* [*singular*] : someone who enjoys being with or talking to other people ▪ The company is looking for a *people person* to join their customer service staff.

people skills *noun* [*plural*] : the ability to work with or talk to other people in an effective and friendly way ▪ Good *people skills* are important in customer service.

[1]pep /'pɛp/ *noun* [*noncount*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : energy or enthusiasm ▪ The young teacher was full of *pep*.

[2]pep *verb* **peps; pepped; pep•ping**

pep up [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** : to become more lively or active ▪ The economy has started to *pep up* in recent months. **2 *pep (someone or something) up or pep up (someone or something)*** : to cause (someone or something) to become more lively or active ▪ To *pep up* [=*improve, increase*] sales, the company is offering a free trial subscription for one month. ▪ The coach tried to *pep* the team *up*.

[1]pep•per /'pɛpə/ *noun, pl* **-pers**

1 [*noncount*] : a food seasoning that is made by grinding the dried berries of an Indian plant along with their hard, black covers : BLACK PEPPER ▪ Please pass the salt and *pepper*. ▪ freshly ground *pepper* — see also CAYENNE PEPPER, SALT-AND-PEPPER, WHITE PEPPER

2 [*count*] : a hollow vegetable that is usually red, green, or yellow and that is eaten raw or cooked ▪ The steak was served with *peppers* and onions. ▪ Be careful handling hot *peppers*. — see color picture on page C4; see also BELL PEPPER, GREEN PEPPER, RED PEPPER, SWEET PEPPER

[2]pepper *verb* **peppers; pep•pered; pep•per•ing** [+ *obj*] : to add pepper to (food) ▪ You need to *pepper* the stew more.

pepper with [*phrasal verb*] **1 *pepper (someone or something) with (something)*** : to hit (someone) repeatedly with your fists or with objects ▪ The boxer *peppered* his opponent *with* punches. ▪ The goalie was *peppered with* shots. — often used figuratively ▪ The reporters *peppered* her *with* questions. [=the reporters asked her a lot of questions] **2 *pepper (something) with (something)*** **a** : to put a small amount of (something) on many different parts of (a surface) — usually used as *(be) peppered with* ▪ His face *is peppered with* freckles. [=he has freckles on many different parts of his face] **b** : to put something in many places in (a story, speech, etc.) ▪ She *peppered* the report *with* statistics.

pep•per•corn /'pɛpə,koən/ *noun, pl* **-corns** [*count*] : a dried berry from an Indian plant that is ground to make pepper

pep•per•mint /'pɛpə,mɪnt/ *noun, pl* **-mints**

1 [*noncount*] : a plant that produces an oil that is used especially to flavor candies

2 [*count*] : a candy flavored with peppermint

pep•per•o•ni /,pɛpə'roʊni/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a spicy sausage that is usually eaten on pizza

pepper shaker *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *US* : a small container with holes on top that is used to put small amounts of pepper on food — called also *(Brit) pepper pot*

pepper spray *noun, pl* ~ **sprays** [*count, noncount*] : a substance made from a chemical found in peppers that causes temporary blindness and pain to the nose, throat, and skin when it is sprayed on someone ▪ The police used *pepper spray* to bring the suspect under control.

pep•pery /'pɛpəri/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : containing pepper or having the qualities of pepper ▪ a *peppery* soup/salad ▪ a *peppery* flavor/smell

2 : having a lively, aggressive, or somewhat shocking quality ▪ She's a *peppery*, outspoken woman. ▪ *peppery* language

pep pill *noun, pl* ~ **pills** [*count*] *informal* : a pill that contains a drug which makes you happier or gives you more energy for a short period of time

pep•py /'pɛpi/ *adj* **pep•pi•er; -est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *chiefly US, somewhat old-fashioned*

1 : full of energy or enthusiasm ▪ At 75 years old, he is as *peppy* as ever. ▪ a group of *peppy* cheerleaders ▪ The song was a *peppy* little dance number.

2 : able to move fast ▪ a *peppy* [=*zippy*] little car

pep rally *noun, pl* ~ **rallies** [*count*] *US* : an event before a school sports event that is meant to get students and fans excited and to encourage the team to win ▪ The school held a *pep rally* in the gym before the football game.; *also* : a similar event in which speakers try to get a group of people excited and enthusiastic about something ▪ The mayor gave an inspiring speech at the party's *pep rally*.

pep talk *noun, pl* ~ **talks** [*count*] *informal* : a short speech that is given to encourage someone to work harder, to feel more confident and enthusiastic, etc. ▪ The coach gave the team a *pep talk* before the game. ▪ She needs a *pep talk*.

pep•tic ulcer /'pɛptɪk-/ *noun, pl* ~ **-cers** [*count*] *medical* : a painful sore inside the stomach or another part of the digestive system

per /'pə/ *prep*

1 : for each ▪ The pay is $12 *per* hour. [=for every hour you work, you will be paid $12] ▪ The tickets are $25 *per* person. [=each ticket costs $25] ▪ The speed limit is 35 miles *per* hour. ▪ The car gets 32 miles *per* gallon. ▪ He averages 15 points *per* game.

2 *somewhat formal* : as directed by or stated in : ACCORDING TO ▪ *Per* your advice, I accepted their offer. ▪ The work was done ***as per*** [=*according to*] your instructions. ▪ ***As per usual*** [=*as usual*], I paid for our meal. [=I paid for our meal, which is what I usually do]

P

per•am•bu•la•tor /pəˈræmbjəˌleɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] *Brit* : STROLLER

per an•num /pɚˈænəm/ *adv, somewhat formal* : in or for each year ▪ She earns $60,000 *per annum*. [=(more commonly) *per year, annually*] — abbr. *p.a.*

per cap•i•ta /pɚˈkæpətə/ *adv* : by or for each person ▪ What is the average income *per capita* in the state? [=what is the average income for people in the state?; how much money does each person in the state earn on average?]
– **per capita** *adj* ▪ The state's average *per capita* income is $35,000.

per•ceive /pɚˈsi:v/ *verb* **-ceives**; **-ceived**; **-ceiv•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 *formal* : to notice or become aware of (something) ▪ I *perceived* [=*noticed*] that she had been crying. ▪ The detective *perceived* [=*saw*] a change in the suspect's attitude.
2 : to think of (someone or something) as being something stated ▪ She *perceived* herself as an independent woman. = She *perceived* herself to be an independent woman. — often used as *(be) perceived* ▪ He *is perceived* as one of the best players in baseball.
– **perceived** *adj* ▪ a *perceived* threat [=something that is thought of as being a threat]

per•cent (*US*) *or Brit* **per cent** /pɚˈsɛnt/ *noun, pl US* **percent** *or Brit* **per cent**
1 [*count*] : one part in a hundred : an amount that is equal to one one-hundredth of something ▪ The value has increased half a *percent*. ▪ several *percent* — usually used with a number ▪ Thirty *percent* [=3/10] of the class failed the test. ▪ Water covers more than 70 *percent* of the Earth's surface.
2 [*singular*] : a part of a whole : PORTION ▪ A large *percent* [=(more commonly) *percentage*] of their profits comes from online sales.
– **percent** (*US*) *or Brit* **per cent** *adv* ▪ Gas prices rose 15 *percent*. [=15%] ▪ I'm 99.9 *percent* sure that I am right. [=I am almost completely sure that I am right] ▪ I agree with her ***100 percent***. [=I agree with her completely] ▪ He feels *100 percent* better. [=he feels completely healthy again]
– **percent** (*US*) *or Brit* **per cent** *adj* ▪ I received a five *percent* [=5%] increase in my salary.

per•cent•age /pɚˈsɛntɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ag•es**
1 [*count*] : a number or rate that is expressed as a certain number of parts of something divided into 100 parts ▪ If a goalie saves 96 out of 100 shots, his save *percentage* is 96 percent. ▪ The *percentages* of women completing high school and college were 95 percent and 52 percent, respectively. ▪ Interest rates fell two ***percentage points***. [=interest rates fell two percent]
2 [*singular*] : a part of a whole : PORTION ▪ What *percentage* of your income do you spend on rent? ▪ A large *percentage* of students passed the test. [=most of the students passed the test]
3 [*count*] : a part or share of the profit earned when something is sold — usually singular ▪ He gets a *percentage* for every car he sells.
no percentage *informal* — used to say that something should not be done because there is no chance that it will produce a good result ▪ There's *no percentage* in arguing with them. They'll never change their minds.

per•cen•tile /pɚˈsɛnˌtajəl/ *noun, pl* **-tiles** [*count*] : one of 100 equal parts that a group of people can be divided into in order to rank them ▪ She scored in the 95th *percentile* in math. [=she got a higher score in math than 95 percent of her classmates] ▪ His height and weight are in the 80th *percentile* for boys his age.

per•cep•ti•ble /pɚˈsɛptəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : able to be seen or noticed : able to be perceived ▪ The sound was barely *perceptible*. ▪ There was a *perceptible* change in the audience's mood.
– **per•cep•ti•bly** /pɚˈsɛptəbli/ *adv* ▪ The size has not changed *perceptibly* in three months. ▪ It is *perceptibly* [=*noticeably*] cooler this evening.

per•cep•tion /pɚˈsɛpʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 a [*count*] : the way you think about or understand someone or something — often + *of* ▪ People's *perceptions of* this town have changed radically. ▪ the public/public's *perception of* nuclear power — see also SELF-PERCEPTION **b** [*noncount*] *somewhat formal* : the ability to understand or notice something easily ▪ She shows remarkable *perception*.
2 [*noncount*] *somewhat formal* : the way that you notice or understand something using one of your senses ▪ visual/spatial *perception* — see also DEPTH PERCEPTION, EXTRASENSORY PERCEPTION

per•cep•tive /pɚˈsɛptɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing an ability to understand or notice something easily or quickly ▪ a *perceptive* analysis/observation/comment ▪ He is a very *perceptive* young man.
– **per•cep•tive•ly** *adv* ▪ As one critic *perceptively* observes, the city itself is perhaps the most important character in the novel. – **per•cep•tive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]perch /ˈpɚʧ/ *verb* **perch•es**; **perched**; **perch•ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to sit on or be on something high or on something from which it is easy to fall — usually + *on* ▪ Birds often *perch on* the ledge outside my window. ▪ People *perched on* the railing to get a better view. ▪ Their house *perches on* a rocky cliff.
2 [+ *obj*] : to put (someone or something) on something high or on something from which it is easy to fall ▪ People ***perched themselves*** on the railing [=people sat on the railing] to get a better view. — usually used as *(be) perched* ▪ He stood there in his coat, a small hat *perched* on/atop his head. ▪ A bird *was perched* on the telephone wire. ▪ Their house *is perched* on a rocky cliff. ▪ The castle *is perched* high in/among the hills of Scotland.

[2]perch *noun, pl* **perches** [*count*]
1 : something (such as a tree branch) that a bird sits on ▪ The bird flew down from its *perch*.
2 : a high seat or location ▪ The lifeguard watches the swimmers from her *perch*.
– compare [3]PERCH

[3]perch *noun, pl* **perch** *or* **perches** [*count, noncount*] : a fish that lives in rivers and streams and that is eaten as food — compare [2]PERCH

per•chance /pɚˈʧæns, *Brit* pəˈʧɑ:ns/ *adv, old-fashioned* + *literary* : maybe but not definitely : PERHAPS ▪ "To sleep: *perchance* to dream . . . " —Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

per•co•late /ˈpɚkəˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates**; **-lat•ed**; **-lat•ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to pass slowly through something that has many small holes in it ▪ The water *percolates* [=*filters, seeps*] through the sand. ▪ Sunlight *percolated* down through the trees.
2 [*no obj*] : to spread slowly ▪ Rumors *percolated* throughout the town.
3 : to make (coffee) in a special pot (called a percolator) [+ *obj*] There is nothing like *percolating* coffee over an open campfire. [*no obj*] Coffee was *percolating* on the stove.
4 [*no obj*] **a** : to continue for a long time without obvious activity ▪ The feud *percolated* [=*simmered*] for decades. **b** : to develop slowly ▪ Ideas are always *percolating* [=*simmering*] in my mind.

per•co•la•tor /ˈpɚkəˌleɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : a covered pot that has a narrow tube in the center and that is used for making coffee

per•cus•sion /pɚˈkʌʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : musical instruments (such as drums, cymbals, or xylophones) that you play by hitting or shaking ▪ He plays *percussion* for the band. ▪ The marimba is a *percussion* instrument. ▪ The song features Tito Puente ***on percussion***. [=Tito Puente plays percussion instruments for the song] ▪ The ***percussion section*** [=the group of musicians who play percussion instruments in a band or orchestra] did a great job.

per•cus•sion•ist /pɚˈkʌʃənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who plays a percussion instrument

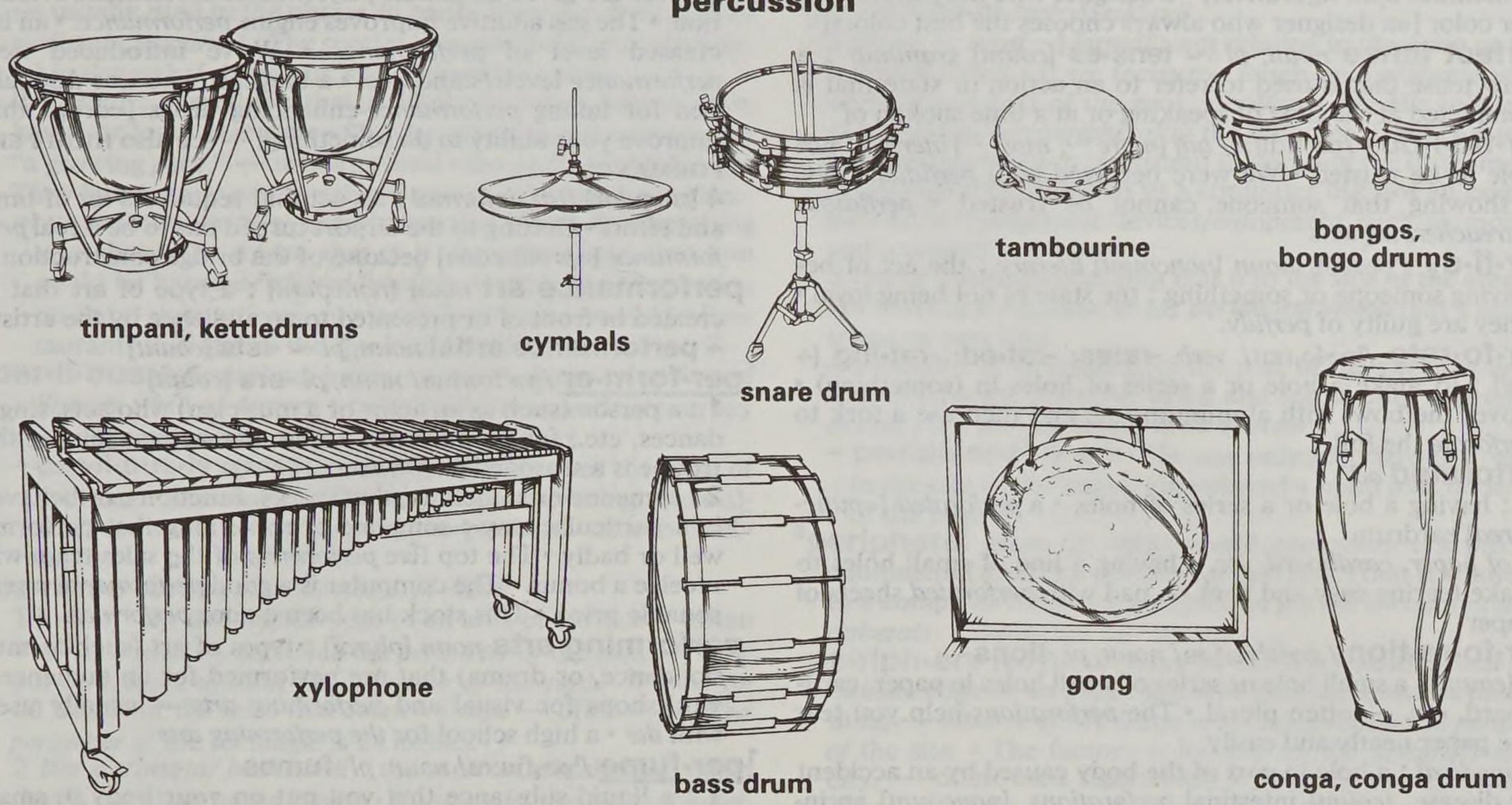
per•cus•sive /pɚˈkʌsɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : of or relating to a percussion instrument or to the sounds that a percussion instrument makes ▪ The song had a punchy, *percussive* rhythm. ▪ The language uses a lot of *percussive* sounds. [=sharp, short sounds that are similar to the sounds some percussion instruments make]

[1]per di•em /pɚˈdi:jəm/ *adv, formal* : for each day : per day ▪ Employees will be given $20 *per diem* for expenses.
– **per diem** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *per diem* allowance

[2]per diem *noun, pl* ~ **-ems** [*count*] *US* : an amount of money given to someone for daily expenses (such as food or fuel) ▪ He received a $30 *per diem* for food.

per•di•tion /pɚˈdɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *old-fashioned* : the state of being in hell forever as punishment after death : DAMNATION ▪ sinners condemned to eternal *perdition* — usually used figuratively ▪ It's this kind of selfishness that leads down the ***road/path to perdition***. [=that is very dangerous or harmful]

per•e•grine falcon /ˈperəgrən-/ *noun, pl* ~ **-cons** [*count*]



: a type of hawk that can fly very fast and is sometimes trained to hunt — called also *peregrine*

pe•remp•to•ry /pə'rɛmptəri/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal*

1 — used to describe an order, command, etc., that you must obey without any questions or excuses ▪ a *peremptory* order/instruction from the court

2 *disapproving* : having or showing the insulting attitude of people who think that they should be obeyed without question : ARROGANT ▪ Her *peremptory* tone/attitude angered me.

– **pe•remp•to•ri•ly** /pə'rɛmptərəli/ *adv*

[1]pe•ren•ni•al /pə'rɛnijəl/ *adj*

1 *of a plant* : living for several years or for many years : having a life cycle that is more than two years long ▪ a *perennial* plant ▪ This variety of oregano is *perennial*. — compare [1]ANNUAL, [1]BIENNIAL

2 a : existing or continuing in the same way for a long time ▪ Hot dogs are a *perennial* favorite at barbecues. [=people always like to eat hot dogs at barbecues] **b** : happening again and again ▪ Flooding is a *perennial* problem for people living by the river.

– **pe•ren•ni•al•ly** *adv* ▪ a *perennially* popular restaurant

[2]perennial *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] : a plant that lives for several years or for many years : a perennial plant ▪ Her garden is full of *perennials*. — compare [2]ANNUAL, [2]BIENNIAL

[1]per•fect /'pəfɪkt/ *adj*

1 [*more ~; most ~*] **a** : having no mistakes or flaws ▪ a *perfect* [=*flawless*] diamond ▪ Your teeth are *perfect*. ▪ The car is in *perfect* [=*mint*] condition. ▪ The performance was *perfect*. ▪ I'm not *perfect* [=I make mistakes], but at least I can admit when I'm wrong. ▪ He thought he had committed the ***perfect crime***. [=a crime that is done so carefully that the criminal will never be caught] ▪ Yes, you made a mistake, but it's okay; ***nobody's perfect***. [=everyone makes mistakes] ▪ Students who have ***perfect attendance*** [=who have been present at every class] will get 10 extra points. ▪ If you want to be a good writer, you should write every day. Remember, ***practice makes perfect***. [=you become better at something if you practice it often] — see also PICTURE-PERFECT **b** : completely correct or accurate ▪ She spoke *perfect* English. ▪ He drew a *perfect* circle. ▪ a *perfect* replica **c** : having all the qualities you want in that kind of person, situation, etc. ▪ She's a *perfect* baby. She hardly cries and she sleeps through the night. ▪ His behavior is a *perfect* example of what not to do. ▪ In a ***perfect world*** [=in the best possible situation], there would be no need for weapons.

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : exactly right for a particular purpose, situation, or person ▪ This is a *perfect* time/place/day to have a wedding. ▪ Going to the museum was a *perfect* way to spend a rainy day. ▪ "Is that a big enough piece of pie?" "Yes, it's *perfect*, thanks." ▪ You have ***perfect timing***. [=your timing is exactly right; you are present, ready, etc., at exactly the right time] I just took dinner out of the oven. — often + *for* ▪ I found the *perfect* [=*ideal*] gift *for* you. ▪ They are a *perfect* match *for* each other. ▪ That picture is *perfect for* this room. ▪ The weather was *perfect for* a day at the beach.

3 *always used before a noun* : complete and total — used for emphasis ▪ a *perfect* stranger/fool/angel/gentleman ▪ You have a *perfect* right to be angry. ▪ My cat and dog live together in *perfect* harmony.

[2]per•fect /pə'fɛkt/ *verb* **-fects**; **-fect•ed**; **-fect•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something good) perfect or better ▪ He needs to *perfect* [=*refine*] his reading skills over the summer. ▪ Scientists are still *perfecting* [=*improving*] the treatment.

[3]per•fect /'pəfɪkt/ *noun*

the perfect *grammar* : PERFECT TENSE ▪ a verb that is in *the perfect* — see also FUTURE PERFECT, PAST PERFECT, PRESENT PERFECT

perfect game *noun, pl* ~ **games** [*count*] *baseball* : a game in which a pitcher does not allow the batters from the other team to get a base hit or to get to first base in any other way

per•fec•tion /pə'fɛkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 : the state or condition of being perfect [*noncount*] The coach expects *perfection* from his players. [=expects the players to make no mistakes] [*singular*] She has achieved a rare *perfection* in her playing. ▪ a *perfection* of form

2 [*noncount*] : the act of making something perfect or better : the act of perfecting something — + *of* ▪ the *perfection of* surgical techniques ▪ She is working on the *perfection of* her art.

3 [*noncount*] : something that cannot be improved : something that is perfect ▪ The meal was sheer *perfection*. [=the meal was perfect] ▪ His poetry is pure *perfection*.

to perfection : in a way or to a degree that is exactly right ▪ The steak was cooked *to perfection*. [=was perfectly cooked]

per•fec•tion•ist /pə'fɛkʃənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who wants things to be done perfectly or who tries to do things perfectly ▪ I'm a bit of a *perfectionist*, which makes it difficult for me to finish things sometimes.

– **per•fec•tion•ism** /pə'fɛkʃəˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *Perfectionism* can make it difficult for people to finish things—they keep wanting to improve them.

per•fect•ly /'pəfɪktli/ *adv*

1 : in every way : COMPLETELY — used for emphasis ▪ I was *perfectly* willing to help. ▪ They are throwing out a *perfectly* good sofa. ▪ It is *perfectly* normal/natural to feel nervous. ▪ You know *perfectly* well what I mean. [=you know exactly what I mean] ▪ To be *perfectly* honest, I don't want to go. ▪ You are *perfectly* capable of doing it yourself. ▪ The bridge is *perfectly* safe.

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : without errors, mistakes, or flaws : in a perfect way ▪ She sang *perfectly*. [=she sang without making a mistake] ▪ The dress fits *perfectly*. [=the dress is the right size] ▪ The steak was *perfectly* cooked. ▪ a *perfectly* formed rose

perfect pitch *noun* [*noncount*] *music* : the ability to correctly name any musical note that you hear or to sing any musical note correctly without help ▪ He has *perfect pitch*. —

sometimes used figuratively ▪ a designer who has *perfect pitch* for color [=a designer who always chooses the best colors]

perfect tense *noun, pl* ~ **tens•es** [*count*] *grammar* : a verb tense that is used to refer to an action or state that is completed at the time of speaking or at a time spoken of

per•fid•i•ous /pəˈfɪdijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *literary* : not able to be trusted ▪ We were betrayed by a *perfidious* ally. : showing that someone cannot be trusted ▪ *perfidious* [=*treacherous*] acts

per•fi•dy /ˈpəfədi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *literary* : the act of betraying someone or something : the state of not being loyal ▪ They are guilty of *perfidy*.

per•fo•rate /ˈpəfəˌreɪt/ *verb* **-rates**; **-rat•ed**; **-rat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make a hole or a series of holes in (something) ▪ Cover the bowl with aluminum foil, and then use a fork to *perforate* the foil.

perforated *adj*

1 : having a hole or a series of holes ▪ a *perforated* [=*punctured*] eardrum

2 *of paper, cardboard, etc.* : having a line of small holes to make tearing easy and neat ▪ a pad with *perforated* sheets of paper

per•fo•ra•tion /ˌpəfəˈreɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] : a small hole or series of small holes in paper, cardboard, etc. — often plural ▪ The *perforations* help you tear the paper neatly and easily.

2 *medical* : a hole in part of the body caused by an accident or disease [*count*] intestinal *perforations* [*noncount*] an infection that can cause *perforation* of the intestine

per•force /pəˈfoəs/ *adv, formal + literary* — used to say that something is necessary or must be done ▪ They must *perforce* obey the law.

per•form /pəˈfoəm/ *verb* **-forms**; **-formed**; **-form•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to do an action or activity that usually requires training or skill ▪ The doctor had to *perform* surgery immediately. ▪ A team of six scientists *performed* [=*carried out*] the experiment. ▪ He has been unable to *perform* [=*complete, fulfill*] his duties since the accident. ▪ The magician *performed* some amazing tricks. ▪ The gymnasts *performed* their routines perfectly. ▪ You are required to *perform* 50 hours of community service. ▪ The wedding (ceremony) was *performed* by a justice of the peace. = A justice of the peace *performed* the wedding (ceremony). ▪ You can't expect me to ***perform miracles***. [=to do something that is impossible]

2 : to entertain an audience by singing, acting, etc. [*no obj*] The band will be *performing* on the main stage. ▪ She's a wonderful singer who loves to *perform* before a live audience. [+ *obj*] The band will *perform* songs from their new album. ▪ The class *performed* the play for the school. ▪ He *performed* [=*acted*] the part/role of Othello. [=he played Othello; he said the words and did the actions of the character Othello]

3 [*no obj*] — used to describe how effective or successful someone or something is ▪ The stock market is *performing* well/badly. ▪ The engine/computer was *performing* poorly. ▪ I *perform* best under pressure.

per•for•mance /pəˈfoəməns/ *noun, pl* **-manc•es**

1 [*count*] **a** : an activity (such as singing a song or acting in a play) that a person or group does to entertain an audience ▪ This evening's *performance* will start at 8 o'clock. ▪ The hall is usually used for orchestra *performances*. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ That tearful apology was quite a *performance*—I almost believed you really were sorry. **b** : the way an actor performs a part in a play, movie, etc. ▪ The critics loved her *performance* as the villain. ▪ She gave a brilliant *performance* as the villain. [=she played the role of the villain brilliantly]

2 *somewhat formal* : the act of doing a job, an activity, etc. [*noncount*] the *performance* of procedures/activities/duties [*singular*] Event planners hope to avoid a ***repeat performance*** of last year's problems. [=hope that last year's problems will not happen again this year]

3 : how well someone or something functions, works, etc. : how well someone or something performs [*count*] A supervisor will evaluate each employee's *performance*. ▪ employees with strong job *performances* ▪ a student's academic *performance* ▪ The team's *performance* last night was poor. [=the team performed/played poorly last night] ▪ This car had the best overall *performance*. [=this car functioned better than all the other cars] ▪ How has the company's stock *performance* been? [=has the value of the company's stock been increasing/decreasing?] [*noncount*] She was fired for poor job *performance*. [=she was fired for doing her job badly] ▪ Employees are given an annual *performance* assessment/evaluation. ▪ The gas additive improves engine *performance*. ▪ an increased level of *performance* ▪ We've introduced new *performance* levels/standards. ▪ a bicyclist who was disqualified for taking *performance*-enhancing drugs [=drugs that improve your ability to do something] — see also HIGH PERFORMANCE

4 [*singular*] *Brit, informal* : an act that requires a lot of time and effort ▪ Getting to the airport turned out to be a real *performance* [=*production*] because of the bridge construction.

performance art *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of art that is created in front of or presented to an audience by the artist — **performance artist** *noun, pl* ~ **-ists** [*count*]

per•form•er /pəˈfoəmə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a person (such as an actor or a musician) who acts, sings, dances, etc., for an audience ▪ The new actress joining the troupe is a seasoned *performer*.

2 : someone or something that works, functions, or behaves in a particular way : someone or something that performs well or badly ▪ The top five *performers* of the sales team will receive a bonus. ▪ The computer is a good *performer* at a reasonable price. ▪ This stock has been a poor *performer*.

performing arts *noun* [*plural*] : types of art (such as music, dance, or drama) that are performed for an audience ▪ workshops for visual and *performing arts* — usually used with *the* ▪ a high school for *the performing arts*

[1]per•fume /ˈpəˌfju:m/ *noun, pl* **-fumes**

1 : a liquid substance that you put on your body in small amounts in order to smell pleasant [*noncount*] Are you wearing *perfume*? ▪ a bottle of *perfume* [*count*] She smelled the different *perfumes* at the store.

2 [*count*] : a pleasant smell ▪ The *perfume* [=*fragrance, scent*] of lilies filled the room.

[2]per•fume /pəˈfju:m/ *verb* **-fumes**; **-fumed**; **-fum•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *literary* : to fill or cover (something) with a pleasant smell ▪ Roses *perfumed* the air. ▪ The meal included a delicate fish *perfumed* with butter and herbs.

2 *somewhat formal* : to put perfume in or on (something) ▪ a time when it was common for men to *perfume* their hair — **per•fumed** *adj* ▪ *perfumed* soap/paper

per•func•to•ry /pəˈfʌŋktəri/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* — used to describe something that is done without energy or enthusiasm because of habit or because it is expected ▪ a *perfunctory* smile/nod/salute ▪ He made/issued a *perfunctory* statement supporting the mayor. — **per•func•to•ri•ly** /pəˈfʌŋktərəli/ *adv* ▪ She smiled/nodded *perfunctorily*.

per•haps /pəˈhæps/ *adv* : possibly but not certainly : MAYBE

> *Perhaps* is a more formal word than *maybe*. It is used when you are talking about an action that might happen in the future. ▪ *Perhaps* we'll meet again. ▪ "Will you come with us?" "I don't know. *Perhaps*." ▪ "Will you come with us?" "*Perhaps, perhaps* not." ▪ "*Perhaps* I'll come with you and *perhaps* I won't." ▪ They're hoping that she'll *perhaps* change her mind. = They're hoping that *perhaps* she'll change her mind. ▪ You should hear from them soon, *perhaps* even by next week. = *Perhaps* you'll hear from them by next week. It is also used to suggest something that is possibly correct, true, or proper. ▪ *Perhaps* we should just stay here and wait. ▪ *Perhaps* it would be better if you left. ▪ There were *perhaps* 10,000 people at the event. ▪ The shed is 20, *perhaps* 25, feet long. ▪ We waited an hour, *perhaps* more. ▪ *Perhaps* it's time to think about your future. And *perhaps* can be used to say that one thing is true but that something else is also true. ▪ *Perhaps* it's not as great as her first book, but it's still worth reading. ▪ The instructions are still confusing, *perhaps*, but they're much better than they were before.

per•i•dot /ˈperəˌdɑ:t/ *noun, pl* **-dots** [*count, noncount*] : a clear, yellowish-green stone that is used in jewelry — see color picture on page C11

peri•gee /ˈperəˌʤi:/ *noun* [*singular*] *technical* : the point in outer space where an object traveling around the Earth (such as a satellite or the moon) is closest to the Earth — compare APOGEE

per•il /ˈperəl/ *noun, pl* **-ils** *somewhat formal + literary*

1 [*noncount*] : the possibility that you will be hurt or killed or that something unpleasant or bad will happen : DANGER ▪ People are unaware of the *peril* these miners face each day.

— usually used in the phrase ***in peril*** ▪ They put their lives *in peril*. [=*in jeopardy*] ▪ The species is *in peril* [=(more commonly) *in danger*] of dying out. ▪ His career is *in peril*.

2 [*count*] : something that is likely to cause injury, pain, harm, or loss : DANGER ▪ She described global warming as "a growing *peril*." — usually plural ▪ the *perils* of childbirth ▪ They faced many *perils* in their journey through the region.

at your (own) peril — used to say that if you do something you should be aware that it is dangerous and that you could be harmed, injured, punished, etc. ▪ No lifeguard is on duty: swim *at your own peril*. [=*at your own risk*] ▪ Restaurants that ignore the smoking ban do so *at their peril*.

per•il•ous /ˈperələs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *somewhat formal + literary* : full of danger : DANGEROUS ▪ a *perilous* journey across the mountains ▪ The climb was *perilous*.

– **per•il•ous•ly** *adv* ▪ He leaned *perilously* over the edge of the boat. ▪ She came ***perilously close to*** drowning. [=she almost drowned] ▪ The company was *perilously close to* bankruptcy.

pe•rim•e•ter /pəˈrɪmətɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters**

1 [*count*] **a** : the outside edge of an area or surface — often + *of* ▪ The soldiers defended the *perimeter of* the camp. ▪ They put up a fence around the *perimeter of* the yard. **b** : the total length of the lines that form a shape — often + *of* ▪ The *perimeter of* the rectangle is 24 inches.

2 ***the perimeter*** *basketball* : the area on a basketball court that is not close to the basket ▪ He scored from *the perimeter*.

peri•na•tal /ˌperəˈneɪtəl/ *adj, medical* : happening during or around the time of birth ▪ The doctor took steps to prevent *perinatal* infection. ▪ *perinatal* death

[1]pe•ri•od /ˈpirijəd/ *noun, pl* **-ods** [*count*]

1 : a length of time during which a series of events or an action takes place or is completed ▪ We have had two power failures in a five-month *period*. ▪ The *period* between Christmas and New Year's Eve is a very busy one for us. — often + *of* ▪ Two snowstorms hit the area in a *period of* one week. ▪ There was a brief *period of* silence. ▪ The country is in a *period of* economic growth. ▪ Scattered showers are expected with a few *periods of* sunshine. ▪ We didn't speak for a long ***period of time***. — see also COOLING-OFF PERIOD

2 : a length of time that is very important in the history of the world, a nation, etc. ▪ We are studying our country's colonial *period*.

3 : a time that is very important in the life of a person ▪ Picasso's Blue *Period* ▪ Children go through many changes during the *period* of adolescence.

4 a : one of the parts that a school day is divided into ▪ I have algebra class during third *period*. **b** : one of the parts that the playing time of a game (such as hockey) is divided into ▪ He scored a goal in the first *period*. ▪ The score was tied after two *periods*.

5 *US* **a** : a point . used to show the end of a sentence or an abbreviation — called also (*Brit*) *full stop* **b** — used in speech to emphasize that a decision, command, or opinion has been made and will not be changed ▪ You are not leaving this house, *period*. ▪ I don't want to talk to her again, *period*.

6 : MENSTRUAL PERIOD

[2]period /ˈpirijəd/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of, relating to, or typical of a particular time in history ▪ *period* costumes/furniture ▪ a *period* play

pe•ri•od•ic /ˌpiriˈɑːdɪk/ *adj, always used before a noun* : happening regularly over a period of time ▪ He takes the car in for *periodic* oil changes. ▪ She makes *periodic* [=*regular*] payments to the bank.

– **pe•ri•od•i•cal•ly** /ˌpiriˈɑːdɪkli/ *adv* ▪ The directory is updated *periodically*.

pe•ri•od•i•cal /ˌpiriˈɑdɪkəl/ *noun, pl* **-cals** [*count*] : a magazine that is published every week, month, etc. ▪ She writes for a monthly *periodical*. ▪ The library has a large collection of scholarly *periodicals*.

periodic table *noun* [*singular*] *chemistry* : a list that shows the chemical elements arranged according to their properties

period piece *noun, pl* ~ **pieces** [*count*] : something (such as a play, a movie, or a piece of furniture) that is from, set in, or typical of a particular time in history

peri•pa•tet•ic /ˌperəpəˈtɛtɪk/ *adj, formal* : going from place to place usually as part of your job ▪ She worked as a *peripatetic* journalist for most of her life. ▪ He had a *peripatetic* career as a salesman.

[1]pe•riph•er•al /pəˈrɪfərəl/ *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : not relating to the main or most important part ▪ If we focus too much on *peripheral* issues, we will lose sight of the goal. — often + *to* ▪ His role in the negotiations was *peripheral to* the outcome. [=his role in the negotiations was not important in deciding the outcome]

2 *computers* : connected to a computer but not an essential part of it ▪ *peripheral* devices/equipment such as modems and scanners

3 : of or relating to the area that is to the side of the area you are looking at ▪ He saw in his ***peripheral vision*** that a car was trying to pass him.

4 *medical* : of or relating to the part of the nervous system that is separate from the brain and spinal cord ▪ *peripheral* nerves ▪ the ***peripheral nervous system***

– **pe•riph•er•al•ly** *adv* ▪ He was only *peripherally* involved in the sale of the house. [=he played a small part in the sale of the house]

[2]peripheral *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] *computers* : a piece of equipment (such as a printer, speaker, etc.) that is connected to a computer but is not an essential part of it ▪ computer *peripherals*

pe•riph•ery /pəˈrɪfəri/ *noun, pl* **-er•ies** [*count*] *formal* : the outside edge of an area : the area that surrounds a place or thing — often + *of* ▪ A fence was built around the *periphery of* the site. ▪ The factory is located on the *periphery of* the city. — often used figuratively ▪ the *periphery of* society ▪ There was little we could do as we watched the case unfold from the *periphery*. [=we were not actively involved so there was little we could do]

peri•scope /ˈperəˌskoʊp/ *noun, pl* **-scopes** [*count*] : a long tube that contains lenses and mirrors and that is used to look over or around something and especially by a person in a submarine to see above the surface of the water

per•ish /ˈperɪʃ/ *verb* **-ish•es**; **-ished**; **-ish•ing** [*no obj*]

1 *formal + literary* : to die or be killed ▪ Two people *perished* in the fire. ▪ The sailors *perished* at sea.

2 *formal* : to disappear or be destroyed : to cease to exist ▪ The civilization *perished* after 500 years. ▪ Many ancient languages have *perished* over time.

3 *Brit* : to slowly break apart by a natural process ▪ The rubber will *perish* with age.

perish the thought — used to say that you hope that something does not happen or to say that something will not happen ▪ Who would take over as goalie if, *perish the thought*, he got injured? ▪ What? Me help him out? *Perish the thought*.

per•ish•able /ˈperɪʃəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : likely to spoil or decay quickly : not likely to stay fresh for a long time if not eaten or used ▪ *perishable* foods

per•ish•ables /ˈperɪʃəbəlz/ *noun* [*plural*] : foods that are perishable ▪ You should store *perishables* in the refrigerator.

perished *adj, not used before a noun, Brit, informal* : very cold ▪ We were all *perished*.

perishing *adj, Brit, informal*

1 : very cold ▪ It is *perishing* out here. ▪ Why don't we light a fire? I am *perishing*. ▪ a ***perishing cold*** day

2 *old-fashioned* : very annoying ▪ a *perishing* nuisance

peri•to•ni•tis /ˌperətəˈnaɪtəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a serious condition in which the covering of the stomach, intestines, and nearby organs becomes swollen and infected

per•i•win•kle /ˈperɪˌwɪŋkəl/ *noun, pl* **-win•kles**

1 [*count*] : a plant with blue or white flowers that spreads along the ground

2 [*count, noncount*] : a light purplish blue color — called also *periwinkle blue*

3 [*count*] : a small snail that lives in the sea and that can be eaten

per•jure /ˈpɚʤɚ/ *verb* **-jures**; **-jured**; **-jur•ing**

perjure yourself *law* : to tell a lie in a court of law after promising to tell the truth : to commit perjury ▪ He *perjured himself* before the court by giving a false testimony.

– **per•jur•er** /ˈpɚʤɚɹɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

per•ju•ry /ˈpɚʤəri/ *noun* [*noncount*] *law* : the crime of telling a lie in a court of law after promising to tell the truth ▪ He was found guilty of *perjury*.

[1]perk /ˈpɚk/ *verb* **perks**; **perked**; **perk•ing**

perk up [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1 a** : to become more lively or cheerful ▪ We *perked up* when we heard the good news. **b** ***perk (someone) up*** *or* ***perk up (someone)*** : to make (someone) more lively or cheerful ▪ The good news *perked* everyone *up*. **2** ***perk (something) up*** *or* ***perk up (some-***

thing) : to make (something) fresher or more appealing ▪ The new paint job really *perked up* the room. **3** *chiefly US* **a** ***perk (ears) up*** *or* ***perk up (ears)*** *of an animal* : to lift (the ears) in a quick or alert way ▪ The dog heard its name and *perked up* its ears. — sometimes used without *up* ▪ The dog *perked* its ears. — often used figuratively of a person ▪ I *perked up* my ears [=I began to listen closely] when I heard his name mentioned. **b** *of ears* : to be lifted in a quick and alert way ▪ The dog's ears *perked up*. — often used figuratively of a person ▪ My ears *perked up* [=I began to listen closely] when she said she knew my brother.

– compare [2]PERK

[2]perk *verb* **perks**; **perked**; **perk•ing** [*no obj*] *chiefly US, informal* : PERCOLATE 3 ▪ Start the coffee *perking*. — compare [1]PERK

[3]perk *noun, pl* **perks** [*count*]

1 : something extra that someone receives in addition to regular pay for doing a job — usually plural ▪ The job came with several *perks*, including use of a company car.

2 : a good thing that you have or get because of your situation — usually plural ▪ One of the *perks* of being a celebrity is that people often want to give you things.

perky /'pəki/ *adj* **perk•i•er**; **-est** [*also more ~; most ~*] *informal* : lively in manner or appearance ▪ a *perky* teenager ▪ He hasn't been his *perky* self lately. ▪ She drove around in a *perky* little car.

– **perk•i•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]perm /'pəm/ *noun, pl* **perms** [*count*] : a process in which someone's hair is curled and treated with chemicals so that it remains curly for a long time ▪ She got a *perm* last week.

[2]perm *verb* **perms**; **permed**; **perm•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (hair) curly for a long time by using chemicals : to give a perm to (hair) ▪ She got her hair *permed* at the salon.

per•ma•frost /'pəmə,frɑ:st/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : a layer of soil that is always frozen in very cold regions of the world

[1]per•ma•nent /'pəmənənt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : lasting or continuing for a very long time or forever : not temporary or changing ▪ She made a *permanent* home in this country. ▪ Prolonged exposure to the sun can cause *permanent* skin damage. ▪ The museum's *permanent* collection includes works of art from the 18th century. ▪ The transcripts will serve as a *permanent* record of the proceedings.

– **per•ma•nence** /'pəmənəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *permanence* of the written word – **per•ma•nen•cy** /'pəmənənsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **per•ma•nent•ly** *adv* ▪ He was *permanently* banned from the store.

[2]permanent *noun, pl* **-nents** [*count*] *US, old-fashioned* : [1]PERM

per•me•able /'pəmijəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *technical* : allowing liquids or gases to pass through ▪ The cell has a *permeable* membrane. ▪ *permeable* limestone

– **per•me•abil•i•ty** /,pəmijə'bɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ They tested the *permeability* of the fabric.

per•me•ate /'pəmi,eɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** *formal* : to pass or spread through (something) [+ *obj*] The water *permeated* the sand. ▪ The smell of baking bread *permeated* the kitchen. ▪ A feeling of anxiety *permeated* the office as we rushed to meet the deadline. [*no obj*] The rain *permeated* through/into the soil.

per•mis•si•ble /,pə'mɪsəbəl/ *adj, formal* : allowed or permitted by laws or rules ▪ *permissible* levels of noise — often + *to* ▪ It is not *permissible* for students *to* wear hats in school. — opposite IMPERMISSIBLE

per•mis•sion /pə'mɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the right or ability to do something that is given by someone who has the power to decide if it will be allowed or permitted ▪ They got/received *permission* from the city to build an apartment complex. ▪ The teacher gave me her *permission* to go home early. ▪ He asked (for) my *permission* to paint his room. ▪ You have my *permission*.

per•mis•sive /pə'mɪsɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *often disapproving* : giving people a lot of freedom or too much freedom to do what they want to do ▪ *permissive* parents ▪ a *permissive* society ▪ Some states have more *permissive* laws than others.

– **per•mis•sive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He sometimes takes advantage of the *permissiveness* of his parents.

[1]per•mit /pə'mɪt/ *verb* **-mits**; **-mit•ted**; **-mit•ting**

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to allow (something) to happen : to give permission for (something) ▪ The judge *permitted* the release of the prisoner. ▪ Smoking is not *permitted* in the building. ▪ When we arrived at customs we realized we had more than the *permitted* number of items. **b** : to allow (someone) to do or have something ▪ He *permitted* himself one more cookie. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ Her parents will not *permit* them *to marry*. ▪ He was not *permitted to serve* on the jury. ▪ (*formal*) *Permit* me *to offer* my congratulations on your victory. [=I would like to congratulate you on your victory]

2 : to make something possible [*no obj*] If time *permits* [=if there is enough time left], we can go out to eat later. ▪ The picnic will be held at the park, ***weather permitting***. [=if the weather is good enough to allow it] [+ *obj*] The new ramp *permits* easier access to the highway.

[2]per•mit /'pə,mɪt/ *noun, pl* **-mits** [*count*] : an official document that shows that a person is allowed to do or have something ▪ He got a fishing/work *permit*. ▪ The city will issue the *permit*. ▪ You cannot park here without a *permit*. ▪ A *permit* is required to own a gun. — see also LEARNER'S PERMIT

per•mu•ta•tion /,pəmju'teɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *formal* : one of the many different ways or forms in which something exists or can be arranged — usually plural ▪ Computer technology, in all of its *permutations*, is here to stay. ▪ Early *permutations* of the design look nothing like the final result. ▪ I have heard various *permutations* of this theory.

per•ni•cious /pə'nɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : causing great harm or damage often in a way that is not easily seen or noticed ▪ More *pernicious* still has been the acceptance of the author's controversial ideas by the general public. ▪ the *pernicious* effects of jealousy ▪ She thinks television has a *pernicious* influence on our children.

– **per•ni•cious•ly** *adv*

per•nick•e•ty /pə'nɪkəti/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *Brit, informal + disapproving* : PERSNICKETY

per•ora•tion /,perə'reɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *formal*

1 : the last part of a speech

2 *disapproving* : a long and dull speech ▪ We sat through a lengthy *peroration* on the evils of the government's policies.

per•ox•ide /pə'rɑ:k,saɪd/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a chemical that is used chiefly to kill bacteria or to make hair lighter in color — see also HYDROGEN PEROXIDE

perp /'pəp/ *noun, pl* **perps** [*count*] *US slang* : a person who commits a crime or does something wrong ▪ The victim wasn't able to identify the *perp*. [=*perpetrator*]

per•pen•dic•u•lar /,pəpən'dɪkjələ/ *adj* : going straight up or to the side at a 90 degree angle from another line or surface ▪ a *perpendicular* line ▪ She lives on the street that is *perpendicular* to mine. ▪ a *perpendicular* cliff [=a cliff that goes straight up] — compare PARALLEL

– **per•pen•dic•u•lar•ly** *adv* ▪ The two cars were parked *perpendicularly* to each other.

per•pe•trate /'pəpə,treɪt/ *verb* **-trates**; **-trat•ed**; **-trat•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to do (something that is illegal or wrong) ▪ The men were planning to *perpetrate* a robbery. ▪ The attack was *perpetrated* by a street gang. ▪ He vowed revenge for the crime *perpetrated* on his family.

– **per•pe•tra•tion** /,pəpə'treɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **per•pe•tra•tor** /'pəpə,treɪtə/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ The police caught the *perpetrators* who robbed the bank.

per•pet•u•al /pə'pɛʧəwəl/ *adj*

1 : continuing forever or for a very long time without stopping ▪ The region is in a state of *perpetual* war. ▪ He seems to have a *perpetual* grin on his face. ▪ (*humorous*) the *perpetual* student/bachelor

2 : happening all the time or very often ▪ Lack of government funding has been a *perpetual* [=*constant*] problem for the organization. ▪ the *perpetual* demands of parenthood

– **per•pet•u•al•ly** *adv* ▪ The two civilizations were *perpetually* at war.

per•pet•u•ate /pə'pɛʧə,weɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to cause (something that should be stopped, such as a mistaken idea or a bad situation) to continue ▪ He *perpetuates* the myth that his house is haunted. ▪ Fears about an epidemic are being *perpetuated* by the media.

– **per•pet•u•a•tion** /pə,pɛʧə'weɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The *perpetuation* of these lies will not help our cause.

per•pe•tu•ity /,pəpə'tu:wəti, *Brit* ,pə:pə'tju:wəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the state of continuing forever or for a very long time ▪ The land will be passed on from generation to generation ***in perpetuity***. [=*forever*]

per•plex /pə'plɛks/ *verb* **-plex•es**; **-plexed**; **-plex•ing** [+ *obj*] : to confuse (someone) very much ▪ Her attitude *perplexes* me. = I am *perplexed* by her attitude. ▪ Questions about the meaning of life have always *perplexed* humankind.

per•plexed /pə'plɛkst/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : unable to understand something clearly or to think clearly : CONFUSED • He gave her a *perplexed* look. • The explanation left me thoroughly *perplexed*.
– **per•plexed•ly** /pə'plɛksədli/ *adv* • The boy stared *perplexedly* at the chalkboard.

perplexing *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : difficult to understand : CONFUSING • *perplexing* questions/problems • His sudden change of attitude is very *perplexing*.

per•plex•i•ty /pə'plɛksəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**
1 [*noncount*] : the state of being very confused because something is difficult to understand • There was a look of *perplexity* on his face. • He stared at her in *perplexity*.
2 [*count*] : something that is confusing and difficult to understand • We will never solve all of the *perplexities* of life.

per•qui•site /'pɚkwəzət/ *noun, pl* **-sites** [*count*] *formal* : ³PERK • Use of the company's jet is a *perquisite* of the job.

per•ry /'peri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count, noncount*] *Brit* : an alcoholic drink made from pears

per se /pɚ'seɪ/ *adv, formal* : by, of, or in itself — used to indicate that something is being considered by itself and not along with other things • She feels that there is nothing wrong with gambling *per se*, but she thinks that it should be done in moderation.

per•se•cute /'pɚsɪˌkju:t/ *verb* **-cutes; -cut•ed; -cut•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to treat (someone) cruelly or unfairly especially because of race or religious or political beliefs • The country's leaders relentlessly *persecuted* those who fought against the regime. • They were *persecuted* for their beliefs. • a *persecuted* minority/people
2 : to constantly annoy or bother (someone) • He complained about being *persecuted* [=*harassed*] by the media.
– **per•se•cu•tion** /ˌpɚsɪ'kju:ʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] They were victims of religious *persecution*. • He was forced to flee the country to avoid *persecution*. [*count*] the *persecutions* of ethnic minorities – **per•se•cu•tor** /'pɚsɪˌkju:tɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]

per•se•ver•ance /ˌpɚsə'virəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the quality that allows someone to continue trying to do something even though it is difficult • His *perseverance* was rewarded: after many rejections, he finally found a job. • *Perseverance* is required to perfect just about any skill.

per•se•vere /ˌpɚsə'viɚ/ *verb* **-veres; -vered; -ver•ing** [*no obj*] : to continue doing something or trying to do something even though it is difficult • She *persevered* in her studies and graduated near the top of her class. • Even though he was tired, he *persevered* and finished the race.
– **persevering** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • If you are *persevering*, I am convinced you will find a job. • a very determined and *persevering* young woman

Per•sian cat /'pɚʒən-, *Brit* 'pɚ:ʃən-/ *noun, pl* ~ **cats** [*count*] : a type of cat that has a round head and long, soft fur

per•sim•mon /pɚ'sɪmən/ *noun, pl* **-mons** [*count*] : a small, round, orange fruit

per•sist /pɚ'sɪst/ *verb* **-sists; -sist•ed; -sist•ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to continue to do something or to try to do something even though it is difficult or other people want you to stop • She had turned him down for a date before, but he *persisted* and asked her again. • The reporter *persisted* with his questioning. • If you *persist* with this behavior, you will be punished. • Must you *persist* in making that noise?
2 : to continue to occur or exist beyond the usual, expected, or normal time • If the pain *persists*, see a doctor. • Doubts about the defendant's story have *persisted* for some time now. • Rumors *persist* that they are dating.

per•sis•tence /pɚ'sɪstəns/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the quality that allows someone to continue doing something or trying to do something even though it is difficult or opposed by other people • He admired her dogged *persistence* in pursuing the job. • His *persistence* in asking for a raise was finally rewarded. • She has shown a lot of *persistence*.
2 : the state of occurring or existing beyond the usual, expected, or normal time — usually + *of* • The *persistence of* the rash worried him.

per•sis•tent /pɚ'sɪstənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : continuing to do something or to try to do something even though it is difficult or other people want you to stop • We were nagged by a *persistent* salesman. • He is one of the government's most *persistent* critics. • She has been *persistent* in pursuing the job.
2 : continuing beyond the usual, expected, or normal time : not stopping or going away • He has been fighting a *persistent* cold/infection. • Flooding has been a *persistent* problem in the area this year. • *Persistent* rumors that the business is for sale have alarmed the staff.
– **per•sis•tent•ly** *adv* • He has *persistently* denied the charges.

persistent vegetative state *noun* [*singular*] *medical* : an unconscious state that is the result of severe brain damage and that can last for a very long time

per•snick•e•ty /pɚ'snɪkəti/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *US, informal + disapproving* : giving a lot of attention to details that are minor or not important • a *persnickety* teacher • The editor is *persnickety* [=(*Brit*) *pernickety*] about comma usage.

per•son /'pɚsn̩/ *noun, pl* **people** *or* **per•sons** [*count*] ✧ The plural of *person* is usually *people* except in formal or legal contexts, where the plural is often *persons*.
1 a : a human being • She is a very nice/shy/interesting *person*. • I saw a *person* standing on the dock. • Any *person* who wants a refund must have a receipt. • Most *people* here are quite friendly. • The tickets are $25 per *person*. • The *person* at the front desk will be able to help you. • The tax break is only applicable to *persons* in a high income bracket. • I like her ***as a person***, but she is not a very good writer. • The disease is easily transmitted from ***person to person***. — sometimes used in compounds to avoid using *man* or *woman* • a spokes*person* • sales*people* — see also MISSING PERSON **b** : a person who likes or enjoys something specified • Our new friends are real party *people*. [=our new friends like parties] • I'm just not a city *person*. [=I do not like the city very much] • She's always been a cat *person*. [=she likes cats a lot] — see also PEOPLE PERSON
2 *pl* ***persons*** *law* : the body or clothing of a person especially when considered as a place to hide things • He was arrested for having a gun ***on his person*** without a permit. [=he was arrested for carrying a gun without having a gun permit] • The dogs discovered that the men were hiding drugs ***about their persons***.
in person — used to say that a person is actually present at a place • The president appeared *in person* at the ceremony. • They met *in person* after speaking on the phone. • You will need to sign for the package *in person*.
in the person of *formal* — used to say that someone is the person who does something, provides something, etc. • Relief during the blackout arrived *in the person of* my brother, who brought flashlights and candles.
– see also FIRST PERSON, SECOND PERSON, THIRD PERSON

per•so•na /pɚ'soʊnə/ *noun, pl* **per•so•nae** /pɚ'soʊni/ *or* **per•so•nas** [*count*] : the way you behave, talk, etc., with other people that causes them to see you as a particular kind of person : the image or personality that a person presents to other people • His public *persona* is that of a strong, determined leader, but in private life he's very insecure. • The band takes on a whole new *persona* when they perform live. — see also DRAMATIS PERSONAE, PERSONA NON GRATA

per•son•able /'pɚsənəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : friendly or pleasant in manner : easy to get along with • The hostess was very *personable*. • He is a *personable* young man.

per•son•age /'pɚsənɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ag•es** [*count*] *formal* : an important or famous person • The premiere was attended by no less a *personage* than the president himself.

per•son•al /'pɚsənəl/ *adj*
1 *always used before a noun* **a** : belonging or relating to a particular person • *personal* property/belongings • This is just my *personal* opinion/preference. • I can only tell you what I know from *personal* experience. • He added his own *personal* touches to the recipe. • We don't accept *personal* checks. • He is a *personal* friend of mine. • She is always concerned about her *personal* appearance. • We provide each of our customers with *personal* service. • Golf is a *personal* interest of mine. **b** : made or designed to be used by one person • a *personal* stereo **c** — used to describe someone whose job involves working for or helping a particular person • She has her own *personal* chauffeur. • the director's *personal* assistant • a *personal* trainer
2 a [*more* ~; *most* ~] : relating to a person's private feelings, thoughts, problems, etc. • May I ask you a *personal* question? • That information is very *personal*, and you have no business asking about it. **b** : relating to the parts of your life that do not involve your work or job • He doesn't speak much about his *personal* life. • The company car is not for *personal* use. • I had to leave work early because I had some

personal matters/problems/issues to take care of. ▪ Is the letter *personal* or about business? ▪ a *personal* phone call **c** — used to describe the feelings of two people who know and deal with each other ▪ We have a close *personal* relationship. ▪ He is a good boss, but I don't get along with him on a *personal* level.

3 [*more ~; most ~*] : relating to a particular person's character, appearance, opinions, etc., in a way that is offensive or hurtful ▪ His speech included some *personal* remarks about me that I found offensive. ▪ He took her comment as a *personal* insult. ▪ It's ***nothing personal*** [=I don't mean to offend you], but I'd rather not talk to you about it. ▪ *Nothing personal*, but why are you still friends with him? ▪ Let's not ***get personal*** here.

4 *always used before a noun* : done by a particular person instead of by someone else who is working or acting for that person ▪ The mayor made a *personal* appearance at the ceremony. ▪ I shall give the matter my (own) *personal* attention.

5 *always used before a noun* : relating to a person's physical body or health ▪ It's important to practice good *personal* hygiene. ▪ *personal* care products

personal ad *noun, pl ~* **ads** [*count*] : a short message in a special section of a newspaper, magazine, etc., that is written by someone who is interested in forming a friendly or romantic relationship with someone else

personal column *noun*

the personal column *Brit* : PERSONALS

personal computer *noun, pl ~* **-ers** [*count*] : a small computer designed for use by one person at home or in an office — called also *PC*

personal digital assistant *noun, pl ~* **-tants** [*count*] : PDA

personal foul *noun, pl ~* **fouls** [*count*] *basketball* : a foul that involves physical contact with an opponent — compare TECHNICAL FOUL

per•son•al•i•ty /ˌpɚsəˈnæləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 : the set of emotional qualities, ways of behaving, etc., that makes a person different from other people [*count*] He has a very pleasant/strong *personality*. ▪ We all have different *personalities*. ▪ There was a ***clash of personalities*** [=a disagreement between people with different personalities] in the office. [*noncount*] The psychiatrist considered behavior as well as *personality* before prescribing a treatment. — often used before another noun ▪ *personality* disorders/traits — see also SPLIT PERSONALITY

2 a [*noncount*] : attractive qualities (such as energy, friendliness, and humor) that make a person interesting or pleasant to be with ▪ He has lots of *personality*. **b** : attractive qualities that make something unusual or interesting ▪ He wants to buy a car that has *personality*. ▪ The city lacks *personality*.

3 [*count*] **a** : a person who is famous ▪ She has met many television *personalities*. ▪ a sports/radio *personality* **b** : a person who is unusual or different from other people in a noticeable way ▪ He was an influential *personality* in genetic engineering.

cult of personality *or* ***personality cult*** : a situation in which a public figure (such as a political leader) is deliberately presented to the people of a country as a great person who should be admired and loved

per•son•al•ize *also Brit* **per•son•al•ise** /ˈpɚsənəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es; -ized; -iz•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to mark (something) in a way that shows it belongs to a particular person — usually used as *(be) personalized* ▪ The stationery *was personalized* with her initials.

2 : to change or design (something) for a particular person — usually used as *(be) personalized* ▪ The computer program can *be personalized* to fit your needs.

– **personalized** *also Brit* **personalised** *adj* ▪ The children have *personalized* towels with their names sewn in. ▪ You can receive *personalized* service at the salon. ▪ a *personalized* license plate

per•son•al•ly /ˈpɚsənəli/ *adv*

1 — used to say that something was done or will be done by a particular person and not by someone else ▪ He said he would attend to the matter *personally*. ▪ I *personally* approved the changes. ▪ She *personally* replied to my letter.

2 — used to say that someone knows a person or thing from personal experience and not because of someone else ▪ "Do you know him *personally*?" "No, but my friend does."

3 : in a way that involves a particular person and no one else ▪ You will be held *personally* responsible for any losses or damages. ▪ The player was *personally* criticized by his coach. ▪ He blamed me *personally* for causing the problem. ▪ I was *personally* offended by the article.

4 : in a way that relates to a particular person and is offensive or hurtful ▪ He didn't mean it *personally*. ▪ Don't take my comments *personally*.

5 — used to say what your opinion is ▪ *Personally*, I liked the first version more. = I *personally* liked the first version more.

6 : in a way that involves someone's personal life rather than someone's work or job ▪ I knew him both *personally* and professionally.

personal pronoun *noun, pl ~* **-nouns** [*count*] *grammar* : a pronoun (such as *I, you, they*, or *it*) that is used to refer to a specific person or thing

per•son•als /ˈpɚsənəlz/ *noun*

the personals *US* : a special section of a newspaper, magazine, etc., where people can place short personal messages (called personal ads) — called also (*Brit*) *the personal column*

personal space *noun* [*noncount*] : the amount of space between you and another person that makes you feel comfortable being near that person ▪ You are invading my *personal space*.

per•so•na non gra•ta /pɚˌsoʊnəˌnɑːnˈgrɑːtə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : someone who is not accepted or welcome by other people ▪ His shocking book about the movie industry has made him *persona non grata* in Hollywood.

per•son•i•fi•ca•tion /pɚˌsɑːnəfəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] **a** : a person who has a lot of a particular quality and who is the perfect example of someone who has that quality — often + *of* ▪ Your father is the *personification of* kindness and generosity. [=he is very kind and generous] ▪ He is the *personification of* evil. **b** : an imaginary person that represents a thing or idea — often + *of* ▪ Uncle Sam is the *personification of* the U.S. government.

2 : the practice of representing a thing or idea as a person in art, literature, etc. [*noncount*] the use of *personification* in a story [*count*] a *personification* of justice as a woman with her eyes covered

per•son•i•fy /pɚˈsɑːnəˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies; -fied; -fy•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to have a lot of (a particular quality) : to be the perfect example of a person who has (a quality) ▪ She *personifies* kindness. = She is kindness *personified*. [=she is a very kind person]

2 : to think of or represent (a thing or idea) as a person or as having human qualities or powers ▪ The ancient Greeks *personified* the forces of nature as gods and goddesses. ▪ Justice is *personified* as a woman with her eyes covered.

per•son•nel /ˌpɚsəˈnɛl/ *noun, pl* **personnel**

1 [*plural*] : the people who work for a particular company or organization ▪ Over 10,000 military *personnel* were stationed in the country. ▪ They've reduced the number of *personnel* working on the project. ▪ medical/security/administrative *personnel*

2 [*noncount*] : a department within a company or organization that deals with the people who work for it : HUMAN RESOURCES ▪ Talk to *personnel* if you have any questions about your health insurance. ▪ She's the director of *personnel*. — often used before another noun ▪ the *personnel* director/manager/department

personnel carrier *noun, pl ~* **-ers** [*count*] : a vehicle with thick, strong walls that is used for transporting military workers and their equipment ▪ armored *personnel carriers*

person–to–person *adj* : involving two people or going directly from one person to another person ▪ *person-to-person* communication ▪ *person-to-person* meetings ▪ a *person-to-person* phone call

– **person–to–person** *adv* ▪ The reporter talked *person-to-person* with the hostage.

per•spec•tive /pɚˈspɛktɪv/ *noun, pl* **-tives**

1 : a way of thinking about and understanding something (such as a particular issue or life in general) [*count*] He helped us see the problem from a new *perspective*. [=*angle, point of view*] ▪ The story is told from the *perspective* of a teenage boy in the 1940s. ▪ marriage as seen from a male/female *perspective* ▪ From an economic *perspective*, the policy has some merit. ▪ a critique of the war from a historical *perspective* — often + *on* ▪ My grandmother has a surprisingly modern *perspective* [=*outlook*] *on* life. ▪ They had totally different *perspectives on* the war. [*noncount*] He had a complete ***change of perspective*** after his illness.

2 [*noncount*] **a** : a condition in which a person knows which things are important and does not worry or think

about unimportant things ▪ He had lost all ***sense of perspective*** and believed that his life was ruined. — often used after *in* or *into* ▪ She helped him put his life *in* proper *perspective*. ▪ Seeing how difficult their lives are has really put my problems *into perspective*. **b** : the ability to understand which things are truly important and which things are not ▪ Try to keep/maintain your *perspective* and not get too worried about it. ▪ I was trying to gain some *perspective* on the things that I learned in college. [=I was deciding which things were important and which things were not]

3 [*count*] : the angle or direction that a person uses to look at an object ▪ She drew the building from several different *perspectives*. ▪ From this *perspective*, the city looks peaceful.

4 [*noncount*] : a way of showing depth or distance in a painting or drawing by making the objects that are far away smaller and making the objects that are closer to the viewer larger ▪ I admire her use of *perspective* in her paintings. ▪ a drawing done in *perspective* = a *perspective* drawing

Per•spex /ˈpəˌspɛks/ *trademark, Brit* — used for a type of clear plastic

per•spi•ca•cious /ˌpəspəˈkeɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : having or showing an ability to notice and understand things that are difficult or not obvious ▪ She considers herself a *perspicacious* [=*shrewd, astute*] judge of character. ▪ The critic made some *perspicacious* [=*insightful*] observations about the film.

– **per•spi•ca•cious•ly** *adv* – **per•spi•cac•i•ty** /ˌpəspəˈkæsəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ her intellectual *perspicacity*

per•spi•ra•tion /ˌpəspəˈreɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *somewhat formal*

1 : the clear liquid that forms on your skin when you are hot or nervous : SWEAT ▪ She wiped the *perspiration* from her forehead.

2 : the act or process of perspiring ▪ Drink plenty of water to replace the liquid lost by *perspiration*. [=*sweating*]

per•spire /pəˈspajəɹ/ *verb* **-spires**; **-spired**; **-spir•ing** [*no obj*] *somewhat formal* : to produce a clear liquid from your skin when you are hot or nervous : SWEAT ▪ I was nervous and could feel myself start to *perspire*. ▪ She ran two miles and wasn't even *perspiring*.

per•suade /pəˈsweɪd/ *verb* **-suades**; **-suad•ed**; **-suad•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause (someone) to do something by asking, arguing, or giving reasons ▪ He *persuaded* his friend to go back to school. ▪ She couldn't be *persuaded* to go. ▪ He would not let himself be *persuaded* into buying the more expensive stereo. ▪ I am not easily *persuaded*. — compare DISSUADE

2 : to cause (someone) to believe something : CONVINCE ▪ They *persuaded* us that we were wrong. ▪ He *persuaded* himself that he had made the right choice.

per•sua•sion /pəˈsweɪʒən/ *noun, pl* **-sions**

1 [*noncount*] : the act of causing people to do or believe something : the act or activity of persuading people ▪ It would take a lot of *persuasion* to get him to agree to such an offer. ▪ Most kids don't need much *persuasion* to use computers. ▪ Many voters are still open to *persuasion*. [=many voters can still be persuaded to change their opinions] ▪ She used her ***powers of persuasion*** [=her ability to persuade people] to convince them to buy the house.

2 [*count*] *formal* : a particular type of belief or way of thinking ▪ an individual's religious/moral *persuasion* ▪ people of all different *persuasions* — sometimes used humorously to refer to a particular type of person or thing ▪ artists of the female/feminine *persuasion* [=artists who are women]

per•sua•sive /pəˈsweɪsɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : able to cause people to do or believe something : able to persuade people ▪ We weren't shown any *persuasive* evidence that he had committed the crime. ▪ a very *persuasive* [=*convincing*] argument ▪ a *persuasive* salesman

– **per•sua•sive•ly** *adv* ▪ She argues *persuasively* that the drug should be legal. – **per•sua•sive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

pert /ˈpəɹt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : having or showing confidence and a lack of respect or seriousness especially in an amusing or appealing way — used especially to describe girls or young women ▪ a lively and *pert* young actress ▪ He laughed at the girl's *pert* answer.

2 : small and attractive ▪ a *pert* little hat ▪ a *pert* bottom/nose

– **pert•ly** *adv* ▪ She winked at him *pertly* and smiled.

per•tain /pəˈteɪn/ *verb* **-tains**; **-tained**; **-tain•ing** [*no obj*] *formal* : to relate *to* someone or something : to have a connection *to* a person or thing ▪ The law *pertains* [=*applies*] only *to* people who were born in this country. ▪ The questions *pertained to* [=the questions were about] the role of religion in society. ▪ books *pertaining to* the country's history

per•ti•nent /ˈpəɹtənənt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : relating to the thing that is being thought about or discussed : RELEVANT ▪ a *pertinent* question ▪ His comments weren't *pertinent* (to the discussion).

– **per•ti•nence** /ˈpəɹtənəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *pertinence* [=*relevance*] of the question – **per•ti•nent•ly** *adv*

per•turb /pəˈtəɹb/ *verb* **-turbs**; **-turbed**; **-turb•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to be worried or upset ▪ It *perturbed* him that his son was thinking about leaving school.

– **perturbed** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ She was so *perturbed* that she forgot to say goodbye. ▪ *perturbed* behavior ▪ He looked very *perturbed* when he heard the news.

per•tur•ba•tion /ˌpəɹtəˈbeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 *technical* : a change in the normal state or regular movement of something [*count*] a *perturbation* in the planet's orbit [*noncount*] gravitational *perturbation*

2 [*noncount*] *formal* : the state of being worried or upset ▪ mental/emotional *perturbation*

per•tus•sis /pəˈtʌsəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : WHOOPING COUGH

pe•ruse /pəˈruːz/ *verb* **-rus•es**; **-rused**; **-rus•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*

1 : to look at or read (something) in an informal or relaxed way ▪ Would you like something to drink while you *peruse* [=*look over*] the menu? ▪ He *perused* the newspaper over breakfast.

2 : to examine or read (something) in a very careful way ▪ She *perused* [=*studied*] the lists closely.

– **pe•rus•al** /pəˈruːzəl/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] — usually singular ▪ a quick *perusal* of the menu ▪ Here is the list of guests for your *perusal*. [*noncount*] This book deserves careful *perusal*.

perv /ˈpəɹv/ *noun, pl* **pervs** [*count*] *slang* : PERVERT

per•vade /pəˈveɪd/ *verb* **-vades**; **-vad•ed**; **-vad•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to spread through all parts of (something) ▪ A sense of excitement *pervaded* the room. [=everyone in the room felt excited] : to exist in every part of (something) ▪ A feeling of great sadness *pervades* the film. ▪ Art and music *pervade* every aspect of their lives.

per•va•sive /pəˈveɪsɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : existing in every part of something : spreading to all parts of something ▪ a *pervasive* odor ▪ the *pervasive* nature of the problem ▪ television's *pervasive* influence on our culture

– **per•va•sive•ly** *adv* – **per•va•sive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

per•verse /pəˈvəɹs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : wrong or different in a way that others feel is strange or offensive ▪ their *perverse* cruelty to animals ▪ She has a *perverse* fascination with death. ▪ He seems to take *perverse* pleasure/delight in making things as difficult as possible. ▪ His friends all enjoy his *perverse* sense of humor. ▪ Is this some kind of *perverse* joke? ▪ *perverse* [=*perverted*] sexual desires

– **per•verse•ly** *adv* ▪ The movie was *perversely* amusing.

per•ver•sion /pəˈvəɹʒən/ *noun, pl* **-sions**

1 : sexual behavior that people think is not normal or natural [*count*] sexual *perversions* [*noncount*] sexual *perversion*

2 a [*count*] : something that improperly changes something good ▪ *perversions* of the truth ▪ The judge's decision was a *perversion* of justice. [=was very unjust] **b** [*noncount*] : the process of improperly changing something that is good ▪ They fought against *perversion* of the health-care system.

per•ver•si•ty /pəˈvəɹsəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*noncount*] : the quality of being wrong or different in a strange or offensive way : a perverse quality ▪ The sheer *perversity* of her actions is shocking. ▪ sexual *perversity* [=*perversion*] ▪ acting out of stubborn *perversity* [=a feeling of not wanting to do what other people want or expect]

2 [*count*] : something that is wrong or perverse ▪ sexual *perversities* — often + *of* ▪ It is one of the many *perversities of* the system.

[1]per•vert /pəˈvəɹt/ *verb* **-verts**; **-vert•ed**; **-vert•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to change (something good) so that it is no longer what it was or should be ▪ people who *pervert* their religion to support violence ▪ They *perverted* the truth to help further their careers.

2 : to cause (a person or a person's mind) to become immoral or not normal ▪ movies that *pervert* the minds of young people by glorifying violence

pervert justice *or* ***pervert the course of justice*** *Brit* : to

try to stop the police from learning the facts about a criminal case ▪ She was convicted of *perverting justice* [=(*US*) *obstructing justice*] for lying to the police.

[2]per•vert /ˈpɚˌvɚt/ *noun, pl* **-verts** [*count*] : a person whose sexual behavior is considered not normal or acceptable

per•vert•ed /pɚˈvɚtəd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : having or showing sexual desires that are considered not normal or acceptable ▪ *perverted* minds ▪ *perverted* criminals ▪ *perverted* behavior
2 : not considered normal or acceptable : PERVERSE ▪ *perverted* logic ▪ He took a *perverted* pleasure/delight in watching them suffer.

pe•se•ta /pəˈseɪtə/ *noun, pl* **-tas** [*count*] : the basic unit of money of Spain until 2002

pes•ky /ˈpɛski/ *adj* **pes•ki•er**; **-est** *US, informal* : making someone annoyed or irritated ▪ I've been trying to get rid of this *pesky* cold for weeks. ▪ *pesky* insects ▪ *pesky* reporters

pe•so /ˈpeɪsoʊ/ *noun, pl* **pe•sos** [*count*] : the basic unit of money of several Latin-American countries and the Philippines; *also* : a coin or bill representing one peso

pes•si•mism /ˈpɛsəˌmɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a feeling or belief that bad things will happen in the future : a feeling or belief that what you hope for will not happen ▪ She has expressed *pessimism* over the outcome of the trial. [=she thinks the outcome will be bad] ▪ Although the economy shows signs of improving, a sense of *pessimism* remains. ▪ He expressed his *pessimism* about politics and politicians. [=his belief that politics and politicians are generally bad] — opposite OPTIMISM

pes•si•mist /ˈpɛsəmɪst/ *noun, pl* **-mists** [*count*] : a person who usually expects bad things to happen ▪ Stop being such a *pessimist*. Not everything is wrong with the world. — opposite OPTIMIST

pes•si•mis•tic /ˌpɛsəˈmɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : having or showing a lack of hope for the future : expecting bad things to happen ▪ I'm *pessimistic* about our chances of winning. [=I don't think we'll win] ▪ Most doctors were *pessimistic* that a cure could be found. ▪ The film gives a very *pessimistic* view of human nature. ▪ He has an extremely negative and *pessimistic* attitude. — opposite OPTIMISTIC
– pes•si•mis•ti•cal•ly /ˌpɛsəˈmɪstɪkli/ *adv* ▪ He spoke *pessimistically* about the country's future.

pest /ˈpɛst/ *noun, pl* **pests** [*count*]
1 : an animal or insect that causes problems for people especially by damaging crops ▪ These insects/birds are *pests* for farmers. ▪ agricultural/garden *pests* ▪ mice and other household *pests* — often used before another noun ▪ *pest* control/management
2 *informal* : a person who bothers or annoys other people ▪ You're being a real *pest*. Would you leave us alone, please?

pes•ter /ˈpɛstɚ/ *verb* **-ters -tered**; **-ter•ing** [+ *obj*] : to annoy or bother (someone) in a repeated way ▪ His mother's always *pestering* [=*harassing*] him (with questions) about his love life. ▪ Leave me alone! Stop *pestering* me!

pes•ti•cide /ˈpɛstəˌsaɪd/ *noun, pl* **-cides** [*count, noncount*] : a chemical that is used to kill animals or insects that damage plants or crops

pes•ti•lence /ˈpɛstələns/ *noun, pl* **-lenc•es** *literary* : a disease that causes many people to die [*noncount*] After years of war and *pestilence*, few people remained in the city. [*count*] — usually singular ▪ a deadly *pestilence*

pes•tle /ˈpɛsəl/ *noun, pl* **pestles** [*count*] : a hard tool with a rounded end that is used for pounding or crushing substances (such as medicines) in a deep bowl (called a mortar)

pes•to /ˈpɛstoʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an Italian sauce that is made especially of fresh basil, garlic, oil, and grated cheese ▪ Top the bread with *pesto*.

[1]pet /ˈpɛt/ *noun, pl* **pets** [*count*]
1 : an animal (such as a dog, cat, bird, or fish) that people keep mainly for pleasure ▪ He caught a snake and kept it as a *pet* for several years. ▪ No *pets* (are) allowed. ▪ An orange cat named Alex was our first ***family pet*** [=a pet kept by a family] — often used before another noun ▪ *pet* food ▪ a *pet* store ▪ a *pet* dog/cat
2 *Brit* — used to address someone in a loving or friendly way ▪ What's the matter, *pet*? [=*darling*]
– see also TEACHER'S PET

[2]pet *adj, always used before a noun* : very interesting or important to a particular person ▪ The mayor's *pet* project has been the construction of a new high school. ▪ I have my own *pet* [=*favorite*] theory about that. ▪ a politician's *pet* causes/issues

[3]pet *verb* **pets**; **pet•ted**; **pet•ting**
1 [+ *obj*] : to touch (a cat, dog, child, etc.) with your hand in a loving or friendly way ▪ My dog loves to be *petted*.
2 [*no obj*] *informal* : to kiss and touch someone in a sexual way ▪ There was some ***heavy petting*** going on at the party.

pet•al /ˈpɛtl/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] : one of the soft, colorful parts of a flower ▪ rose *petals* ▪ flowers with pink and white *petals* — see picture at FLOWER

pe•tard /pəˈtɑɚd/ *noun*
hoist by/on/with your own petard : hurt by something that you have done or planned yourself : harmed by your own trick or scheme ▪ a politican who has been *hoist by his own petard*

pe•ter /ˈpiːtɚ/ *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter•ing**
peter out [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to gradually become smaller, weaker, or less before stopping or ending ▪ Their romantic relationship *petered out* after the summer. ▪ Interest in the sport is beginning to *peter out*.

pet hate *noun, pl ~* **hates** [*count*] *Brit* : PET PEEVE

pe•tit bour•geois /pəˈtiːbuɚʒˈwɑː/ *noun, pl* **petit bourgeois** [*count*] *often disapproving* : a member of the petite bourgeoisie — called also *petty bourgeois*

pe•tite /pəˈtiːt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : having a small and thin body — usually used to describe a woman or girl ▪ She's *petite* and has short black hair. ▪ a *petite* young woman ▪ clothes in *petite* sizes [=sizes that fit petite women]

petite bourgeoisie *noun*
the petite bourgeoisie : a social class that is between the middle class and the lower class : the lower middle class ▪ a member of *the petite bourgeoisie* — called also *the petty bourgeoisie*

pe•tit four /ˌpɛtiˈfoɚ/ *noun, pl* **pe•tits fours** *or* **petit fours** /ˌpɛtiˈfoɚz/ [*count*] : a very small cake that is decorated with frosting

[1]pe•ti•tion /pəˈtɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*]
1 : a written document that many people sign to show that they want a person or organization to do or change something ▪ They collected 2,000 signatures on a *petition* demanding that women be allowed to join the club. ▪ Would you like to sign our *petition*?
2 a : a formal written request made to an official person or organization ▪ We presented a *petition* to the legislature to change the law. **b** *law* : a formal written request to have a legal case decided by a court ▪ She filed a *petition* for divorce. ▪ They've denied your *petition*. [=the court will not hear your case]
3 *formal* : a prayer or request to God or to a very powerful person or group ▪ We ask you to hear our *petition*.

[2]petition *verb* **-tions**; **-tioned**; **-tion•ing** : to ask (a person, group, or organization) for something in a formal way [+ *obj*] The organization *petitioned* the government to investigate the issue. ▪ All people had the right to *petition* the king for help. [*no obj*] She *petitioned* to join their club. — often + *for* ▪ The students *petitioned for* permission to wear hats in school.

pe•ti•tion•er /pəˈtɪʃənɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a person who creates a petition or signs a petition in order to change or ask for something ▪ We have the signatures of over 300 *petitioners*.
2 *law* : a person who asks to have a legal case decided by a court ▪ The *petitioner* is trying to have the Supreme Court overrule the decision.

pet•it larceny /ˈpɛti-/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US, law* : the crime of stealing something that does not have a high value — called also *petit theft, petty larceny, petty theft*; compare GRAND LARCENY

pet•it theft /ˈpɛti-/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US, law* : PETIT LARCENY

pet name *noun, pl ~* **names** [*count*] : a name that a person uses for someone to show love or affection ▪ His *pet name* for her is "Sweet Pea."

pet peeve *noun, pl ~* **peeves** [*count*] *US* : something that annoys or bothers a person very much ▪ One of my biggest *pet peeves* is people driving too slowly on the highway. — called also (*Brit*) *pet hate*

pe•trel /ˈpɛtrəl/ *noun, pl* **-trels** [*count*] : a bird that has long wings and usually dark feathers and that lives mainly on the ocean

Pe•tri dish /ˈpiːtri-/ *noun, pl ~* **dishes** [*count*] : a small, shallow dish that has a loose cover and that is is used in scientific experiments especially for growing bacteria

P

petrified *adj*
1 : very afraid or frightened of something : unable to move or act because you are afraid ▪ "Are you afraid?" "I'm not just afraid, I'm *petrified*." ▪ We were *petrified* with fear.
2 — used to describe something (such as wood) that has slowly changed into stone or a substance like stone over a very long period of time ▪ *petrified* wood ▪ the *petrified* bones of a fish ▪ a *petrified* forest

pet•ri•fy /'pɛtrəˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) very afraid ▪ It *petrifies* [=*terrifies*] me to think of how close we came to dying.
2 *technical* : to slowly change (something, such as wood) into stone or a substance like stone over a very long period of time [+ *obj*] the processes that *petrify* wood [*no obj*] The dead tree *petrified* into stone.

pet•ro•chem•i•cal /ˌpɛtroʊ'kɛmɪkəl/ *noun, pl* **-cals** [*count*] *technical* : a chemical that is made from petroleum or natural gas

pet•rol /'pɛtrəl/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : GASOLINE

petrol bomb *noun, pl* ~ **bombs** [*count*] *Brit* : MOLOTOV COCKTAIL

pe•tro•leum /pə'troʊlijəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a kind of oil that comes from below the ground and that is the source of gasoline and other products

petroleum jelly *noun* [*noncount*] : an oily substance that is made from petroleum, has no taste or odor, and is used especially in products that are rubbed on the skin to help heal a wound, reduce pain, etc.

petrol station *noun, pl* ~ **-tions** [*count*] *Brit* : GAS STATION

pet•ti•coat /'pɛtiˌkoʊt/ *noun, pl* **-coats** [*count*] : a skirt that a woman or girl wears under a dress or outer skirt

pet•ti•fog•ging /'pɛtiˌfɑːgɪŋ/ *adj, old-fashioned* : worrying too much about details that are minor or not important ▪ *pettifogging* lawyers

petting zoo *noun, pl* ~ **zoos** [*count*] *US* : a collection of animals that children can touch and feed

pet•ty /'pɛti/ *adj* **pet•ti•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]
1 a : not very important or serious ▪ Let's not waste time arguing over *petty* [=*trivial*] details. ▪ *petty* [=*minor*] crimes ▪ a *petty* official [=an official who is not important and has little power] **b** : relating to things that are not very important or serious ▪ a *petty* argument about grammar ▪ *petty* jealousy **c** : committing crimes that are not very serious ▪ *petty* criminals/thieves/crooks
2 : treating people harshly and unfairly because of things that are not very important ▪ a small-minded, *petty* person ▪ My behavior was *petty* and stupid. I apologize.
– **pet•ti•ness** /'pɛtinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *pettiness* of their concerns

petty bourgeois *noun, pl* **petty bourgeois** [*count*] : PETIT BOURGEOIS

petty bourgeoisie *noun* [*noncount*] : PETIT BOURGEOISIE

petty cash *noun* [*noncount*] : a small amount of money that is kept in an office in order to pay for small items

petty larceny *noun* [*noncount*] : PETIT LARCENY

petty officer *noun, pl* ~ **-cers** [*count*] : an officer with a low rank in the Navy or U.S. Coast Guard

petty theft *noun* [*noncount*] : PETIT LARCENY

pet•u•lant /'pɛʧələnt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving* : having or showing the attitude of people who become angry and annoyed when they do not get what they want ▪ a *petulant* child ▪ Her tone was *petulant* and angry.
– **pet•u•lance** /'pɛʧələns/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **pet•u•lant•ly** *adv*

pe•tu•nia /pɪ'tuːnjə/ *noun, pl* **-nias** [*count*] : a plant that has colorful flowers which are shaped like funnels

pew /'pjuː/ *noun, pl* **pews** [*count*] : one of the benches that are placed in rows in a church

pew•ter /'pjuːtə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a dull gray metal that is a mixture of tin and usually lead ▪ cups made of *pewter* = *pewter* cups

PG /'piː'ʤiː/ — used as a special mark to indicate that people of all ages may see a particular movie but that parents may want to watch the movie with their children ▪ This movie is rated *PG*. Parental guidance is suggested. — compare G, NC-17, PG-13, R, X

pg. *abbr* page ▪ *pg.* 26

PGA *abbr* Professional Golfers' Association

PGCE *abbr, Brit* Postgraduate Certificate of Education

PG–13 /'piː'ʤiːθə'tiːn/ — used as a special mark to indicate that people of all ages may see a particular movie but that parents may want to watch the movie with their children especially when their children are younger than 13 years old; compare G, NC-17, PG, R, X

pH /'piː'eɪʧ/ *noun* [*singular*] *technical* : a number between 0 and 14 that indicates if a chemical is an acid or a base ✧ A chemical with a pH lower than 7 is an acid, and a chemical with a pH higher than 7 is a base. ▪ You should test the *pH* of the soil in your garden.

PH *abbr* pinch hitter

pha•lanx /'feɪˌlæŋks, *Brit* 'fæˌlæŋks/ *noun, pl* **-lanx•es** [*count*] *formal* : a large group of people, animals, or things often placed close together ▪ A solid *phalanx* of armed guards stood in front of the castle. ▪ She had to go through a *phalanx* of television cameras.

phal•lic /'fælɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : of, relating to, or resembling a penis ▪ The poem is filled with *phallic* imagery. ▪ an ancient Greek ***phallic symbol*** representing fertility

phal•lus /'fæləs/ *noun, pl* **phal•li** /'fæˌlaɪ/ *or* **phal•lus•es** [*count*]
1 : an image or representation of a penis
2 : PENIS

phan•tasm /'fænˌtæzəm/ *noun, pl* **-tasms** [*count*] *literary* : something that exists only in a person's mind ▪ the *phantasm* of equality ▪ a ghostly *phantasm*

phan•tas•ma•go•ria /fænˌtæzmə'gorijə/ *noun, pl* **-rias** [*count*] *literary* : a confusing or strange scene that is like a dream because it is always changing in an odd way ▪ He saw a *phantasmagoria* of shadowy creatures through the fog.
– **phan•tas•ma•gor•ic** /fænˌtæzmə'gorɪk/ *or* **phan•tas•ma•gor•i•cal** /fænˌtæzmə'gorɪkəl/ *adj* ▪ a *phantasmagoric* scene

1phan•tom /'fæntəm/ *noun, pl* **-toms** [*count*]
1 : the soul of a dead person thought of as living in an unseen world or as appearing to living people : GHOST ▪ The book is about the *phantoms* that are said to haunt the nation's cemeteries.
2 : something that is not real and exists only in a person's mind ▪ The crisis is merely a *phantom* made up by the media.
3 : something that is hard to see or achieve — often + *of* ▪ He spent years chasing the *phantoms of* fame and fortune.

2phantom *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : coming from or associated with the world of ghosts ▪ People claim to have seen a *phantom* ship floating on the lake.
2 a : not real or true or not based on something real or true ▪ A number of ballots from *phantom* voters had to be thrown out. ▪ *phantom* fears **b** : not real but felt or experienced as something real ▪ *phantom* illnesses ▪ a ***phantom pregnancy*** [=a medical condition in which a woman believes that she is pregnant and can appear to be pregnant when she is not pregnant]

pha•raoh *or* **Pharaoh** /'feroʊ/ *noun, pl* **-raohs** [*count*] : a ruler of ancient Egypt

Phar•i•see /'ferəˌsiː/ *noun, pl* **-sees** [*count*] : a member of an ancient Jewish group that followed Jewish religious laws and teachings very strictly

1phar•ma•ceu•ti•cal /ˌfɑəmə'suːtɪkəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to the production and sale of drugs and medicine ▪ a *pharmaceutical* company ▪ lobbyists from the *pharmaceutical* industry

2pharmaceutical *noun, pl* **-cals** [*count*] *technical* : a drug or medicine — usually plural ▪ The company manufactures *pharmaceuticals*.

phar•ma•cist /'fɑəməsɪst/ *noun, pl* **-cists** [*count*] : a person whose job is to prepare and sell the drugs and medicines that a doctor prescribes for patients ▪ He is trained as a *pharmacist*. [=(*US*) *druggist*, (*Brit*) *chemist*]

phar•ma•col•o•gy /ˌfɑəmə'kɑːləʤi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical*
1 : the scientific study of drugs and how they are used in medicine
2 : a drug's qualities and effects ▪ We don't have a complete understanding of the new drug's *pharmacology* yet.
– **phar•ma•col•o•gist** /ˌfɑəmə'kɑːləʤist/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*] – **phar•ma•co•log•i•cal** /ˌfɑəməkə'lɑːʤɪkəl/ *also* **phar•ma•co•log•ic** /ˌfɑəməkə'lɑːʤɪk/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ the *pharmacological* treatment of depression [=the treatment of depression using drugs] ▪ *pharmacologic* effects – **phar•ma•co•log•i•cal•ly** /ˌfɑəməkə'lɑːʤɪkli/ *adv* ▪ The two drugs are *pharmacologically* similar.

P

phar•ma•co•pe•ia (*chiefly US*) *or chiefly Brit* **phar•ma•co•poe•ia** /ˌfɑəməkəˈpiːjə/ *noun, pl* **-ias** [*count*] *technical*
1 : a collection or supply of drugs • The new discovery added another drug to the global *pharmacopeia*.
2 : an official book that describes drugs and how to use them as medicine

phar•ma•cy /ˈfɑəməsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies**
1 [*count*] **a** : a store or part of a store in which drugs and medicines are prepared and sold • There's a *pharmacy* in our grocery store now. **b** : a place in a hospital where drugs and medicines are prepared and given out : DISPENSARY
2 [*noncount*] : the practice and profession of preparing drugs and medicines • She's studying *pharmacy* at the university.

phar•ynx /ˈferɪŋks/ *noun, pl* **phar•yng•es** /fəˈrɪnʤiz/ *or* **phar•ynx•es** [*count*] *medical* : the part inside your mouth where the passages of the nose connect to your mouth and throat

[1]phase /ˈfeɪz/ *noun, pl* **phas•es**
1 [*count*] : a part or step in a process : one part in a series of related events or actions • The project will be done in three *phases*. • He's in the final *phase* of treatment now. • The building project marks a new *phase* in the town's development. • These poems are from an early *phase* [=*stage*] in her career.
2 [*count*] : a short period of time during which a person behaves in a particular way or likes a particular thing • He has been throwing tantrums a lot, but the doctor says it's just a *phase*. • She's going through a punk *phase* right now. [=she likes punk music and fashion at this point in her life]
3 [*count*] : the shape of the part of the moon that is visible at different times during a month • a calendar based on the *phases* of the moon
4 [*noncount*] *Brit* : the state in which things work together with each other — used in the phrases ***in phase*** or ***out of phase*** • Make sure the machine's wheels are moving *in phase* with each other. • The sound on this movie is *out of phase*. [=the sound does not match the images of the movie] • He seems to be *out of phase* [=(*US*) *out of step*] with the rest of the team.

[2]phase *verb* **phases; phased; phas•ing**
phase in [*phrasal verb*] ***phase (something) in*** *or* ***phase in (something)*** : to start to use or do (something) gradually over a period of time : to introduce (something) slowly • The country is *phasing in* new paper currency. • The tax cut will be *phased in* over the next three years. • The law will *phase* tax cuts *in* over a period of two years.
phase out [*phrasal verb*] ***phase (something) out*** *or* ***phase out (something)*** : to stop using, making, or doing (something) gradually over a period of time • The company is *phasing* its old equipment *out*. • The airplane is being *phased out* in favor of a new design. — see also PHASEOUT

phased *adj* : done gradually in steps and according to a plan • The government has announced the *phased* closure of a number of military bases. • a *phased* withdrawal of troops

phase•out /ˈfeɪzˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*] *US* : the act of stopping something gradually over a period of time in a planned series of steps or phases — usually singular • The restaurant will continue its *phaseout* of many unhealthy menu items over the next two years. — see also *phase out* at [2]PHASE

phat /ˈfæt/ *adj* **phat•ter; -est** *US slang* : very attractive or appealing • That song has a *phat* beat. • That car is *phat*!

PhD /ˌpiːˌeɪʧˈdiː/ *noun, pl* **PhDs** [*count*]
1 : the highest degree given by a university or college • He got his *PhD* [=*doctorate*] from Harvard. • She has two *PhDs*. [=doctoral degrees] • a *PhD* candidate [=a person who is trying to get a PhD]
2 : a person who has a PhD • We're not hiring new *PhDs* at this point. • Sheila Jones, *PhD* ✧ *PhD* is an abbreviation of "doctor of philosophy."

pheas•ant /ˈfɛznt/ *noun, pl* **pheasant** *or* **pheas•ants**
1 [*count*] : a large bird that has a long tail and is often hunted for food or sport ✧ The male pheasant is brightly colored and the female is mostly brown. — see color picture on page C9
2 [*noncount*] : the meat of the pheasant eaten as food

phe•nom /ˈfiːˌnɑːm/ *noun, pl* **-noms** [*count*] *US, informal* : a person who is very good at doing something (such as a sport) • a football/baseball *phenom* [=(more formally) *phenomenon*]

phenomena *plural of* PHENOMENON

phe•nom•e•nal /fɪˈnɑːmənl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very good or great : unusual in a way that is very impressive • The book was a *phenomenal* [=*huge*] success. • Her performance was *phenomenal*. [=*amazing*]

phe•nom•e•nal•ly /fiˈnɑːmənli/ *adv*
1 : in a very great or impressive way • It's a *phenomenally* [=*hugely*] successful book.
2 : very or extremely : to an unusually high degree • The speech was *phenomenally* boring.

phe•nom•e•non /fiˈnɑːməˌnɑːn/ *noun* [*count*]
1 *pl* ***-e•na*** /-ənə/ : something (such as an interesting fact or event) that can be observed and studied and that typically is unusual or difficult to understand or explain fully • natural *phenomena* like lightning and earthquakes • the *phenomenon* of love
2 *pl* ***-e•nons*** : someone or something that is very impressive or popular especially because of an unusual ability or quality • the greatest literary *phenomenon* of the decade • He's a football/baseball *phenomenon*. • The movie eventually became a cultural *phenomenon*.

pher•o•mone /ˈferəˌmoʊn/ *noun, pl* **-mones** [*count*] *biology* : a chemical substance that an animal or insect produces in order to attract other animals or insects and especially a mate

phew /ˈfjuː/ *interj* — used to show that you are relieved, tired, hot, or disgusted • *Phew*! I thought we were going to miss the bus! • *Phew*! What a long day it's been! • *Phew*! It's hot in here. • *Phew*! What's that smell?

phi•al /ˈfajəl/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] *Brit* : VIAL

Phi Be•ta Kap•pa /ˌfaɪˌbeɪtəˈkæpə/ *noun, pl* **~ -pas**
1 [*noncount*] : a special society for students who do excellent academic work at a college or university in the U.S. • He belongs to *Phi Beta Kappa*. • He made *Phi Beta Kappa* his sophomore year. • She graduated *Phi Beta Kappa*. [=when she graduated, she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa]
2 [*count*] : a person who is a member of Phi Beta Kappa • He's a *Phi Beta Kappa*.

phi•lan•der•er /fəˈlændərə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *old-fashioned + disapproving* : a man who has sexual relations with many women and especially with women who are not his wife
– phi•lan•der•ing /fɪˈlændərɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* • a *philandering* husband **– philandering** *noun* [*noncount*] • She refused to tolerate his *philandering*.

phi•lan•thro•pist /fəˈlænθrəpɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a wealthy person who gives money and time to help make life better for other people • wealthy *philanthropists*

phi•lan•thro•py /fəˈlænθrəpi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the practice of giving money and time to help make life better for other people • The family's *philanthropy* made it possible to build the public library. — compare MISANTHROPY
– phil•an•throp•ic /ˌfɪlənˈθrɑːpɪk/ *adj* • She started a *philanthropic* [=*charitable*] foundation. • He is involved in various *philanthropic* activities.

phi•lat•e•list /fəˈlætəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-lists** [*count*] *technical* : a person who studies or collects postage stamps

phi•lat•e•ly /fəˈlætəli/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : the study or collection of postage stamps • She has enjoyed *philately* [=(more commonly) *stamp collecting*] since she was a child.
– phil•a•tel•ic /ˌfɪləˈtɛlɪk/ *adj* • a *philatelic* society

-phile /ˌfajəl/ *noun combining form* : someone who likes something very much • Franco*phile* [=a person who likes France or French culture] • techno*phile* — compare -PHOBE

Phil•har•mon•ic /ˌfɪlɚˈmɑːnɪk/ *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] : SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA — usually used in the names of orchestras • the New York *Philharmonic*

-phil•ia /ˈfɪlijə/ *noun combining form*
1 : a strong feeling of love or admiration for something • Anglo*philia* [=a love of England] — compare -PHOBIA
2 : a feeling of unusual or abnormal sexual desire for someone or something • pedo*philia* [=adult sexual desire for children]

phi•lis•tine *or* **Phi•lis•tine** /ˈfɪləˌstiːn, *Brit* ˈfɪləˌstaɪn/ *noun, pl* **-tines** [*count*] *formal + disapproving* : a person who does not understand or care about art or culture • They're just a bunch of *philistines* who don't care if the city's orchestra goes bankrupt.
– philistine *adj* • a *philistine* public concerned only with celebrities **– phi•lis•tin•ism** /ˈfɪləstəˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]

Phil•lips screw /ˈfɪləps-/ *noun, pl* **~ screws** [*count*] : a type of screw that has a slot in its top that looks like a cross — called also *Phillips-head screw*

Phillips screwdriver *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a screwdriver that is designed to be used with a Phillips screw — called also *Phillips-head screwdriver*

philo·den·dron /ˌfɪlə'dɛndrən/ *noun, pl* **-drons** [*count*] : a kind of plant with attractive leaves that people often grow indoors — see color picture on page C6

phi·lol·o·gy /fə'lɑ:lədʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *somewhat old-fashioned + technical* : the study of language; *especially* : the study of how languages or words develop — compare LINGUISTICS
– **phil·o·log·i·cal** /ˌfɪlə'lɑ:dʒɪkəl/ *adj* • *philological* evidence
– **phi·lol·o·gist** /fə'lɑ:lədʒɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*]

phi·los·o·pher /fə'lɑ:səfɚ/ *noun, pl* **-phers** [*count*] : a person who studies ideas about knowledge, truth, the nature and meaning of life, etc. : a person who studies philosophy • the Greek *philosopher* Plato

philosopher's stone *noun* [*singular*] : an imaginary substance that people in the past believed had the power to change other metals into gold

philo·soph·i·cal /ˌfɪlə'sɑ:fɪkəl/ *also* **philo·soph·ic** /ˌfɪlə'sɑ:fɪk/ *adj*
1 : of, relating to, or based on philosophy • They got into a *philosophical* debate about what it means for something to be "natural." • Chinese *philosophical* texts
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a calm attitude toward a difficult or unpleasant situation • He's trying to be *philosophical* about their decision since he knows he can't change it.
– **philo·soph·i·cal·ly** /ˌfɪlə'sɑ:fɪkli/ *adv* • She's *philosophically* opposed to capital punishment. • He accepted their decision *philosophically*.

phi·los·o·phize *also Brit* **phi·los·o·phise** /fə'lɑ:səˌfaɪz/ *verb* **-phiz·es**; **-phized**; **-phiz·ing** [*no obj*] : to talk about something in a serious way for a long time — often + *about* or *on* • We had to listen to him *philosophizing about* art again. • She was *philosophizing on* the meaning of life.

phi·los·o·phy /fə'lɑ:səfi/ *noun, pl* **-phies**
1 a [*noncount*] : the study of ideas about knowledge, truth, the nature and meaning of life, etc. • a professor of *philosophy* • Her degree is in *philosophy* and religion. — often used before another noun • a *philosophy* book/class/professor **b** [*count*] : a particular set of ideas about knowledge, truth, the nature and meaning of life, etc. • The group eventually split over conflicting political *philosophies*. — often + *of* • the *philosophy of* Plato
2 [*count*] : a set of ideas about how to do something or how to live • Her main cooking *philosophy* is to use only fresh ingredients. • My *philosophy* is to live and let live. [=let other people live the way they want to] • His ***philosophy of life*** [=his way of living] is to treat people as he would like to be treated.

phlegm /'flɛm/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a thick, yellowish liquid that is produced in the nose and throat especially when a person has a cold
2 *literary* : calmness in a difficult or unpleasant situation • He displayed remarkable *phlegm* in very dangerous conditions.
– **phlegmy** /'flɛmi/ *adj* • a *phlegmy* cough

phleg·mat·ic /flɛg'mætɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *literary* : not easily upset, excited, or angered • our *phlegmatic* leader • She was *phlegmatic* [=*calm*] even during the most difficult moments of the crisis.

phlox /'flɑ:ks/ *noun, pl* **phlox** *or* **phlox·es** [*count, noncount*] : a tall plant that has groups of white, pink, or purple flowers

-phobe /ˌfoʊb/ *noun combining form* : a person who dislikes or is afraid of something or someone • techno*phobe* [=a person who is afraid of technology] • arachno*phobe* [=a person who is afraid of spiders] — compare -PHILE

pho·bia /'foʊbijə/ *noun, pl* **-bias** [*count*] : an extremely strong dislike or fear of someone or something • His fear of crowds eventually developed into a *phobia*.

-pho·bia /'foʊbijə/ *noun combining form* : an extremely strong dislike or fear of someone or something • xeno*phobia* [=fear and hatred of foreign people and things] — compare -PHILIA

pho·bic /'foʊbɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : of, relating to, or having an extremely strong fear or dislike of someone or something • She is *phobic* about heights.
– **phobic** *noun, pl* **-bics** [*count*] • social *phobics* [=people who are very nervous and afraid in social situations]

-phobic /'foʊbɪk/ *adj combining form* : having an extremely strong dislike or fear of someone or something • claustro*pho-bic* [=afraid of being in closed or narrow spaces]

phoe·nix /'fi:nɪks/ *noun, pl* **-nix·es** [*count*] : a magical bird in ancient stories that lives for 500 years before it burns itself to death and then is born again from its ashes — sometimes used figuratively • The arts scene in this city is a *phoenix* rising from the ashes and is more vibrant than ever before.

phon- *or* **phono-** *combining form* : connected with sound, voice, or speech • *phon*ology [=the study of speech sounds] • *phono*graph [=a kind of machine that plays recorded sounds]

[1]phone /'foʊn/ *noun, pl* **phones**
1 : TELEPHONE: such as **a** [*noncount*] : a system that uses wires and radio signals to send people's voices over long distances • We spoke by *phone* earlier. • The voice on the other end of the *phone* [=*line*] was familiar, but I couldn't place it. • a *phone* bill/company/conversation • I just have to make a quick ***phone call*** before we leave. • You can order ***over the phone*** [=by calling on the telephone] **b** [*count*] : a device that is connected to a telephone system and that you use to listen or speak to someone who is somewhere else • The *phone* has been ringing all morning! • He slammed the *phone* [=*receiver*] down and stormed out of the room. • Our new *phone* is cordless. • I left the *phone* off the hook. — see pictures at OFFICE, TELEPHONE; see also CELL PHONE, MOBILE PHONE, PAY PHONE, WIRELESS PHONE
2 *phones* [*plural*] : HEADPHONES
on the phone **1** : using a telephone to talk to someone • Can you see who's at the door? I'm *on the phone*. • I was *on the phone* with my sister until late last night. **2** *Brit* : connected to a telephone system • How many households aren't *on the phone*?

[2]phone *verb* **phones**; **phoned**; **phon·ing** : to speak or try to speak to (someone) over a telephone system : TELEPHONE [+ *obj*] She *phoned* [=*called*] them already. — often + *up* in British English • I *phoned* her *up* earlier today. [*no obj*] Someone from the newspaper will be *phoning* with a few questions. — often + *up* in British English • She said she would be *phoning up* later.
phone in [*phrasal verb*] **1 a** : to make a telephone call to a place (such as the place where you work) • Our boss is on a business trip but she will *phone in* [=*call in*] periodically. • She ***phoned in sick*** [=*called in sick*] yesterday. [=she telephoned the place where she works to say that she was sick and would not be coming to work] **b** : to make a telephone call to a radio or television program • Thousands of people *phoned in* to make a donation. • People *phoned in* [=*called in*] (to the show) from all over the country. — see also PHONE-IN **2 *phone (something) in*** or ***phone in (something)*** : to deliver (something, such as a message) by making a telephone call • He only *phoned in* the pizza order a little while ago, so it's probably not ready yet.

-phone /ˌfoʊn/ *noun combining form*
1 : sound • homo*phones* [=words that sound the same but are spelled differently and have different meanings] — often used in the names of musical instruments and devices that relate to sound • saxo*phone* • micro*phone*
2 : a speaker of a specified language • Franco*phone* [=a person who speaks French]

phone book *noun, pl* ~ **books** [*count*] : a book that lists the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the people and businesses in a certain area — called also *directory, phone directory, telephone book, telephone directory*

phone booth *noun, pl* ~ **booths** [*count*] *US* : a very small room or enclosed structure with a public telephone in it — called also *telephone booth, (Brit) phone box, (Brit) telephone box*

phone card *noun, pl* ~ **cards** [*count*] : CALLING CARD 1

phone–in /'foʊnˌɪn/ *noun, pl* **-ins** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : CALL-IN — see also *phone in* 1b at [2]PHONE

pho·neme /'foʊˌni:m/ *noun, pl* **-nemes** [*count*] *linguistics* : the smallest unit of speech that can be used to make one word different from another word • The sounds represented by "c" and "b" are different *phonemes*, as in the words "cat" and "bat."
– **pho·ne·mic** /fə'ni:mɪk/ *adj* • *phonemic* analysis – **pho·ne·mi·cal·ly** /fə'ni:mɪkli/ *adv* • *phonemically* distinct

phone number *noun, pl* ~ **-bers** [*count*] : a number that you dial on a telephone to reach a particular person, business, etc. • What's your *phone number*? • I don't have her new *phone number*. — called also *number, telephone number*

phone sex *noun* [*noncount*] : a conversation held over the telephone in which people describe sex acts to one another for sexual pleasure

P

phone tag *noun* [*noncount*] *US, informal* : TELEPHONE TAG ▪ "Have you talked to your sister about the party yet?" "No, we've been ***playing phone tag*** all week."

phone tapping *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : WIRETAPPING

pho•net•ic /fə'nɛtɪk/ *adj, linguistics*
1 : of or relating to spoken language, speech sounds, or the science of phonetics ▪ the *phonetic* units of a language
2 : representing each speech sound with a single symbol ▪ a *phonetic* transcription ▪ This dictionary uses the International *Phonetic* Alphabet.
3 [*more ~; most ~*] : using a system of written symbols that represent speech sounds in a way that is very close to how they actually sound ▪ Spanish is a more *phonetic* language than English.
– **pho•net•i•cal•ly** /fə'nɛtɪkli/ *adv* ▪ He is able to spell words *phonetically*.

pho•net•ics /fə'nɛtɪks/ *noun* [*noncount*] *linguistics* : the study of speech sounds
– **pho•ne•ti•cian** /ˌfoʊnə'tɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-cians** [*count*]

phoney *chiefly Brit spelling of* PHONY

pho•nic /'fɑ:nɪk/ *adj, always used before a noun, linguistics* : of or relating to speech sounds or phonics ▪ the *phonic* [=(more commonly) *phonetic*] elements of a word

phon•ics /'fɑ:nɪks/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a method of teaching people to read and pronounce words by learning the sounds of letters, letter groups, and syllables

phono- *variant spelling of* PHON-

pho•no•graph /'foʊnəˌgræf, *Brit* 'fəʊnəˌgrɑ:f/ *noun, pl* **-graphs** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : RECORD PLAYER

pho•nol•o•gy /fə'nɑ:lədʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *linguistics* : the study of the speech sounds used in a language ▪ a professor of *phonology* ▪ He's studying Japanese *phonology*.
– **pho•no•log•i•cal** /ˌfoʊnə'lɑ:dʒɪkəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ We will compare the *phonological* features of the two languages. – **pho•no•log•i•cal•ly** /ˌfoʊnə'lɑ:dʒɪkli/ *adv* ▪ *phonologically* similar languages – **pho•nol•o•gist** /fə'nɑ:lədʒɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*]

[1]**pho•ny** (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **pho•ney** /'foʊni/ *adj* **pho•ni•er; -est** *informal*
1 : not true, real, or genuine : intended to make someone think something that is not true ▪ He gave a *phony* name to the police. = The name he gave the police was *phony*. ▪ a *phony* [=(more commonly) *counterfeit*] $100 bill ▪ She's been talking in a *phony* [=*fake*] Irish accent all day.
2 *of a person* : not honest or sincere : saying things that are meant to deceive people ▪ *phony* politicians
– **pho•ni•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ I recognized the *phoniness* of her accent.

[2]**phony** (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **phoney** *noun, pl* **pho•nies** [*count*] *informal*
1 : a person who pretends to be someone else or to have feelings or abilities that he or she does not really have : a person who is not sincere ▪ According to him, politics is full of *phonies*. ▪ I don't think she ever meant to help us. What a *phony*!
2 : something that is not real or genuine ▪ The painting is a *phony*. [=*fake*]

phoo•ey /'fu:wi/ *interj, chiefly US, informal + humorous* — used to express disbelief, disappointment, or a strong dislike for something ▪ You say it was a mistake? *Phooey*!

phos•phate /'fɑ:sˌfeɪt/ *noun, pl* **-phates** [*count, noncount*] *chemistry* : a salt or compound that has phosphorus in it and that is used especially in products (called fertilizers) that help plants grow

phos•pho•res•cent /ˌfɑ:sfə'rɛsn̩t/ *adj, technical* : of or relating to a type of light that glows softly in the dark and that does not produce heat ▪ a *phosphorescent* glow
– **phos•pho•res•cence** /ˌfɑ:sfə'rɛsn̩s/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* ▪ Some sea creatures exhibit *phosphorescence*.

phos•pho•rus /'fɑ:sfərəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chemistry* : a poisonous chemical element that glows in the dark and burns when it is touched by air
– **phos•phor•ic** /fɑs'fɔrɪk/ *adj* ▪ *phosphoric* acid [=a type of acid that contains phosphorus]

phot- *or* **photo-** *combining form*
1 : related to light ▪ *photon* ▪ *photography*
2 : relating to photography ▪ *photocopy* ▪ *photojournalism*

pho•to /'foʊtoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-tos** [*count*] : PHOTOGRAPH ▪ black-and-white *photos* ▪ We gave them a framed family *photo* for their anniversary. ▪ You aren't allowed to take *photos* inside the theater. ▪ The magazine published a ***photo spread*** [=photographs printed together usually on a number of pages] of scenes from the play. ▪ All of my baby pictures are in one ***photo album***. [=a book that holds photographs]

photo booth *noun, pl ~* **booths** [*count*] : a small room that one or two people can go into to have their photograph taken by putting money into a slot

pho•to•call /'foʊtoʊˌkɑ:l/ *noun, pl* **-calls** [*count*] *Brit* : PHOTO SHOOT

pho•to•cell /'foʊtəˌsɛl/ *noun, pl* **-cells** [*count*] *technical* : PHOTOELECTRIC CELL

pho•to•copi•er /'foʊtəˌkɑ:pijɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : COPIER

pho•to•copy /'foʊtəˌkɑ:pi/ *noun, pl* **-cop•ies** [*count*] : a paper copy of a document, picture, etc., that is made with a special machine (called a copier or photocopier) ▪ She made a *photocopy* of the letter.
– **photocopy** *verb* **-copies; -cop•ied; -cop•y•ing** [+ *obj*] She asked her assistant to *photocopy* the letter and send it to all of her clients. ▪ He gave me a bunch of *photocopied* articles to use in my research. [*no obj*] His job includes answering the phones, filing, and *photocopying*.

photocopy machine *or* **photocopying machine** *noun, pl ~* **-chines** [*count*] : COPIER

pho•to•elec•tric /ˌfoʊtoʊwɪ'lɛktrɪk/ *adj, technical* : involving, relating to, or using an electric current that is controlled by light

photoelectric cell *noun, pl ~* **cells** [*count*] *technical* : an electronic device that converts changes in light into changes in an electric current — called also *photocell*

photo finish *noun* [*singular*] : a finish in a race in which the racers are so close that the judges have to look at a photograph of the racers crossing the finish line to see who has won

pho•to•ge•nic /'foʊtə'dʒɛnɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : tending to look good in photographs ▪ She's a very *photogenic* child. ▪ This is the city's most *photogenic* park. — compare TELEGENIC

[1]**pho•to•graph** /'foʊtəˌgræf, *Brit* 'fəʊtəˌgrɑ:f/ *noun, pl* **-graphs** [*count*] : a picture made by a camera ▪ The man's *photograph* was on the front page of the paper. = A *photograph* of the man was on the front page of the paper. ▪ I always take a lot of *photographs* when I travel. ▪ a digital *photograph* ▪ The exhibit included videos as well as ***still photographs***. [=ordinary photographs that are not videos, movies, etc.] — called also *photo*

[2]**photograph** *verb* **-graphs; -graphed; -graph•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to take a photograph of (someone or something) ▪ He *photographed* the women sitting on the bench. ▪ She was *photographed* in the studio.
2 [*no obj*] : to appear in photographs ▪ He *photographs* well. [=he looks good in photographs; he is photogenic]

pho•tog•ra•pher /fə'tɑ:grəfɚ/ *noun, pl* **-phers** [*count*] : a person who takes photographs especially as a job ▪ He worked for the magazine as a fashion *photographer*.

pho•to•graph•ic /ˌfoʊtə'græfɪk/ *adj* : relating to or used to make photographs ▪ *photographic* film/paper ▪ the *photographic* process ▪ *photographic* images of the galaxy
– **pho•to•graph•i•cal•ly** /ˌfoʊtə'græfɪkli/ *adv* ▪ I reduced the images *photographically*.

photographic memory *noun, pl ~* **-ries** [*count*] : an unusual ability to remember things completely and exactly as they were seen, read, etc. — usually singular ▪ He is a good detective because he has a *photographic memory*.

pho•tog•ra•phy /fə'tɑ:grəfi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the art, process, or job of taking pictures with a camera ▪ He studied both film and still *photography*. ▪ Landscape *photography* is her hobby. ▪ The art museum is showing a *photography* exhibit. [=an exhibit of photographs] ▪ the ***director of photography*** [=the person who is in charge of filming for a movie]

pho•to•jour•nal•ism /ˌfoʊtoʊ'dʒɚnəˌlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the job or activity of using photographs to report news stories in magazines or newspapers
– **pho•to•jour•nal•ist** /ˌfoʊtoʊ'dʒɚnəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*]

pho•ton /'foʊˌtɑ:n/ *noun, pl* **-tons** [*count*] *physics* : a tiny particle of light or electromagnetic radiation

photo opportunity *noun, pl ~* **-ties** [*count*] : a situation in which a famous person (such as a politician) can be photographed while doing something good or impressive that is meant to be seen in a favorable way by the public ▪ The mayor's visit to the hospital was a good *photo opportunity*. — called also *photo op*

pho·to·sen·si·tive /ˌfoʊtoʊˈsɛnsətɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *technical* : reacting to light by changing color, creating electricity, etc. ▪ paper with a *photosensitive* coating
– **pho·to·sen·si·tiv·i·ty** /ˌfoʊtoʊˌsɛnsəˈtɪvəti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

photo shoot *noun, pl* ~ **shoots** [*count*] : an occasion when a professional photographer takes pictures of someone famous for use in a magazine or for some other purpose ▪ The magazine used only two of the pictures from the *photo shoot*. — called also *photo session, shoot,* (*Brit*) *photocall*

pho·to·syn·the·sis /ˌfoʊtoʊˈsɪnθəsəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *biology* : the process by which a green plant turns water and carbon dioxide into food when the plant is exposed to light

phras·al /ˈfreɪzəl/ *adj, grammar* : of, relating to, or consisting of a phrase or phrases ▪ *phrasal* categories ▪ a *phrasal* unit

phrasal verb *noun, pl* ~ **verbs** [*count*] *grammar* : a group of words that functions as a verb and is made up of a verb and a preposition, an adverb, or both ▪ "Take off" and "look down on" are *phrasal verbs*.

[1]phrase /ˈfreɪz/ *noun, pl* **phras·es** [*count*]
1 : a group of two or more words that express a single idea but do not usually form a complete sentence ▪ Answer the questions in complete sentences, not *phrases*. ▪ She used the *phrase* "I strongly believe" too many times in her speech. ▪ Underline the key words or *phrases* in the paragraph. ▪ an adverbial/adjectival *phrase* — see also NOUN PHRASE, PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE
2 : a brief expression that is commonly used ▪ To borrow a *phrase* from my mother, I spend too much time "watching the boob tube" and not enough time outside. ▪ a famous *phrase* — see also CATCHPHRASE, *to coin a phrase* at [2]COIN, *turn of phrase* at [2]TURN
3 *music* : a short section of a longer piece of music ▪ musical *phrases*

[2]phrase *verb* **phrases**; **phrased**; **phras·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to say (something) in a particular way ▪ He *phrased* his version of the story in a way that made him look good. ▪ The question was awkwardly *phrased*.
2 : to perform (a piece of music) with the notes grouped together in a particular way ▪ The singer *phrased* the music beautifully.

phrase book *noun, pl* ~ **books** [*count*] : a book for travelers that contains common phrases and expressions of a foreign language with their translations

phrase·ol·o·gy /ˌfreɪziˈɑːlədʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the way that a particular person or group uses words ▪ legal *phraseology*

phrasing *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the way something is expressed in words : the particular words or the order of words that are used to express something ▪ The *phrasing* of the instructions was confusing.
2 *music* : the act of grouping notes together in a particular way ▪ a singer known for her elegant/fluid/artful *phrasing*

phut /ˈfʌt/
go phut *Brit, informal* : to stop working ▪ The television *went phut* this morning.

phyl·lo *also* **filo** /ˈfiːloʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : very thin dough that is used in pastries — called also *phyllo dough, phyllo pastry*

phy·lum /ˈfaɪləm/ *noun, pl* **phy·la** /ˈfaɪlə/ [*count*] *biology* : a large group of related animals or plants

phys ed /ˈfɪzˈɛd/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US, somewhat informal* : PHYSICAL EDUCATION

physi- *or* **physio-** *combining form*
1 : related to nature ▪ *physio*logy
2 : physical ▪ *physio*therapy

[1]phys·i·cal /ˈfɪzɪkəl/ *adj*
1 : relating to the body of a person instead of the mind ▪ *physical* abuse ▪ The program is designed to address both *physical* and emotional health. ▪ No *physical* contact with other players is allowed in the game. ▪ He has an unusual *physical* appearance. ▪ He is ***in good physical condition***. [=he is strong and healthy; he is in good shape] ▪ ***physical fitness*** [=good health and strength that you get through exercise]
2 : existing in a form that you can touch or see ▪ *physical* objects ▪ the *physical* environment/world ▪ There was no *physical* evidence of the crime.
3 [*more ~; most ~*] : involving or related to sex ▪ *physical* attraction ▪ Their relationship was purely *physical*.
4 [*more ~; most ~*] **a** : involving or having a lot of movement or activity ▪ *physical* comedy [=comedy in which people hit each other, fall down, etc.] ▪ He's a very *physical* competitor. **b** : involving or having very violent and forceful activity ▪ Ice hockey is a very *physical* sport. ▪ It was a very *physical* hockey game. ▪ He's one of the team's most *physical* players.
5 a : of or relating to the laws of nature ▪ Scientists used the space station to study *physical* phenomena in a weightless environment. **b** *always used before a noun* : of or relating to the study of physics ▪ *physical* forces
6 [*more ~; most ~*] : tending to express love or affection by touching other people ▪ She is a very *physical* person.
– **phys·i·cal·i·ty** /ˌfɪzəˈkæləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a comedian known for his *physicality*

[2]physical *noun, pl* **-cals** [*count*] : a medical examination to see if a person's body is healthy ▪ Her doctor performed a routine *physical*. [=*checkup*] ▪ an annual *physical* — called also *physical examination*

physical education *noun* [*noncount*] : sports and exercise taught in schools ▪ He teaches *physical education* at the high school. — abbr. *P.E.* — called also (*chiefly US, somewhat informal*) *phys ed*

phys·i·cal·ly /ˈfɪzɪkli/ *adv*
1 : related to or involving the body or physical form ▪ I don't think I am *physically* able to climb all the way to the top. ▪ The doctor could find nothing *physically* wrong with him. ▪ Her sister is *physically* disabled. ▪ The buildings were designed to resemble one another *physically*. ▪ a *physically* attractive person
2 — used to say what can truly happen or be done by physical effort ▪ It is *physically* impossible for me to get everything done and still go to sleep on time. ▪ She did everything *physically* possible to make us happy.

physical science *noun, pl* ~ **-ences** [*count*] : an area of science that deals with materials that are not alive and the ways in which nonliving things work — usually plural ▪ *physical sciences* such as physics, chemistry, and astronomy — compare LIFE SCIENCE

physical therapist *noun, pl* ~ **-pists** [*count*] *US, medical* : a person whose job is to give people physical therapy — abbr. *PT* — called also (*Brit*) *physiotherapist,* (*Brit, informal*) *physio*

physical therapy *noun* [*noncount*] *US, medical* : the treatment of a disease or an injury of the muscles or joints with massage, exercises, heat, etc. — abbr. *PT* — called also (*Brit*) *physiotherapy,* (*Brit, informal*) *physio*

phy·si·cian /fəˈzɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-cians** [*count*] *chiefly US, somewhat formal* : a medical doctor; *especially* : a medical doctor who is not a surgeon

physician assistant *noun, pl* ~ **-tants** [*count*] *US* : PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT

physician–assisted suicide *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : suicide that is done with the help of a doctor — compare ASSISTED SUICIDE

physician's assistant *noun, pl* ~ **-tants** [*count*] *US* : a person who provides basic medical care and who usually works with a doctor — called also (*US*) *PA,* (*US*) *physician assistant*

phys·i·cist /ˈfɪzəsɪst/ *noun, pl* **-cists** [*count*] : a scientist who studies or is a specialist in physics

phys·ics /ˈfɪzɪks/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a science that deals with matter and energy and the way they act on each other in heat, light, electricity, and sound ▪ high-energy/nuclear/modern/particle *physics* ▪ laws of *physics* — see also ASTROPHYSICS, GEOPHYSICS

phys·io /ˈfɪzijoʊ/ *noun, pl* **phys·ios** *Brit, informal*
1 [*noncount*] : PHYSICAL THERAPY
2 [*count*] : PHYSICAL THERAPIST

physio- *variant spelling of* PHYSI-

phys·i·og·no·my /ˌfɪziˈɑːgnəmi/ *noun, pl* **-mies** [*count*] *formal* : the appearance of a person's face : a person's facial features ▪ He and his son have the same distinctive *physiognomy*.

phys·i·ol·o·gy /ˌfɪziˈɑːlədʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a science that deals with the ways that living things function ▪ She took a course in anatomy and *physiology*.
2 : the ways that living things or any of their parts function ▪ human *physiology* ▪ the *physiology* of diseased plants
– **phys·i·o·log·i·cal** /ˌfɪzijəˈlɑːdʒɪkəl/ *also chiefly US* **phys·i·o·log·ic** /ˌfɪzijəˈlɑːdʒɪk/ *adj* ▪ *physiological* changes/processes ▪ a normal *physiological* response to cold temperatures – **phys·i·o·log·i·cal·ly** /ˌfɪzijəˈlɑːdʒɪkli/ *adv* – **phys·i·ol·o·gist** /ˌfɪziˈɑːlədʒist/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*] ▪ She's a trained *physiologist*.

phys·io·ther·a·pist /ˌfɪzijoʊˈθerəpɪst/ *noun, pl* **-pists** [*count*] *Brit* : PHYSICAL THERAPIST

phys·io·ther·a·py /ˌfɪzijoʊˈθerəpi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : PHYSICAL THERAPY

phy·sique /fəˈziːk/ *noun, pl* **-siques** [*count*] : the size and shape of a person's body : BUILD — usually singular ▪ He has the *physique* of a trained athlete. ▪ a dancer's *physique*

pi /ˈpaɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *geometry* : the number that results when the circumference of a circle is divided by its diameter and that is approximately 3.1416; *also* : the symbol π used for this number

PI *abbr* private investigator ▪ Joe Smith, *PI*

pi·a·nis·si·mo /ˌpijəˈnɪsəmoʊ/ *adv, music* : very softly ▪ The first section is meant to be sung *pianissimo*.
– **pianissimo** *adj* ▪ *pianissimo* notes

pi·a·nist /piˈænɪst, ˈpiːjənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-nists** [*count*] : a person who plays the piano ▪ a concert/classical/jazz *pianist*

[1]pi·ano /piˈænoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-an·os** [*count*] : a large musical instrument with a keyboard that you play by pressing black and white keys and that produces sound when small hammers inside the piano hit steel wires ▪ Do you play the *piano*? ▪ a concerto that is played on the *piano* = a *piano* concerto ▪ a *piano* player [=*pianist*] ▪ He takes *piano* lessons on Wednesdays. — see picture at KEYBOARD; compare HARPSICHORD; see also GRAND PIANO, UPRIGHT PIANO

[2]piano /piˈɑːnoʊ/ *adv, music* : quietly or softly
– **piano** *adj* ▪ a *piano* passage

piano bar *noun, pl* ~ **bars** [*count*] : a bar where there is a piano player who plays music to entertain the customers

pi·ano·forte /piˈænəˌfoət, *Brit* piˌænəʊˈfɔːti/ *noun, pl* **-fortes** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : [1]PIANO

pi·az·za /piˈɑːtsə/ *noun, pl* **-zas** [*count*] : an open public area in a town or city (especially in Italy) that is usually surrounded by buildings

pic /ˈpɪk/ *noun, pl* **pics** *or* **pix** /ˈpɪks/ [*count*] *informal*
1 : [1]PHOTOGRAPH ▪ She showed me her vacation *pics*.
2 : MOVIE ▪ an exciting action *pic*

pi·ca·resque /ˌpɪkəˈrɛsk/ *adj* : telling a story about the adventures of a usually playful and dishonest character ▪ a *picaresque* novel

pic·a·yune /ˌpɪkiˈjuːn/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *US, informal* : not very valuable or important ▪ They argued over the most *picayune* details.

pic·co·lo /ˈpɪkəˌloʊ/ *noun, pl* **-los** [*count*] : a musical instrument that looks like a small flute and plays very high notes — see picture at WOODWIND

[1]pick /ˈpɪk/ *verb* **picks**; **picked**; **pick·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to choose or select (someone or something) from a group ▪ *Pick* a card—any card. ▪ They *picked* a name out of a hat. ▪ The winners will be *picked* by lottery. ▪ She was *picked* to replace the retiring CEO. ▪ Who do you think he will *pick* as/for his running mate? ▪ He *picked* the blue tie to wear to the interview. ▪ He *picked* the right/wrong answer. ▪ They both *picked* New York to win the World Series. [=they both said that they thought the New York team would win the World Series] — see also CHERRY-PICK
2 : to remove (a fruit, flower, etc.) from a plant especially by using your hand ▪ She *picked* a flower for her mother. ▪ I *picked* some carrots and a few tomatoes. ▪ They sell freshly *picked* fruits and vegetables. ▪ Our grapes are *picked* by hand. — see also HANDPICK
3 a : to remove unwanted material from (something) by using your finger, a small tool, etc. ▪ It's considered impolite to ***pick your nose*** in public. ▪ He was sitting at the table, ***picking his teeth*** with a toothpick. **b** *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to remove (something) from something by using your fingers ▪ *Pick* the meat from/off the bones. ▪ She *picked* all the pepperoni off (of) the pizza.
4 *chiefly US* : to play (a guitar, banjo, etc.) by pulling the strings with your fingers or with a pick : PLUCK ▪ She was strumming and *picking* her guitar.
bone to pick see [1]BONE
pick a fight/quarrel : to deliberately start a fight with someone ▪ Never *pick a fight* you can't win. ▪ She sometimes *picked fights* with other girls at school.
pick a lock : to open a lock by using something that is not the key ▪ He used a knife to *pick the lock* on the front door.
pick and choose : to choose only the best or most appropriate things or people ▪ As one of Hollywood's most successful actors, he's now in a position to carefully *pick and choose* his roles. ▪ The newspaper *picks and chooses* which stories to report. ▪ With so many candidates, we can afford to *pick and choose*. [=we can afford to take our time and only choose the best candidate]
pick apart [*phrasal verb*] ***pick (someone or something) apart*** *or* ***pick apart (someone or something)*** *chiefly US* : to say all of the things that are bad or wrong about (someone or something) : to criticize (a person or thing) in a very detailed and usually unkind way ▪ You can expect political analysts to *pick apart* the governor's speech. ▪ The film's critics *picked* his performance *apart*.
pick at [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***pick at (something)*** **a** : to eat small amounts of (food) very slowly usually because you do not want to eat ▪ She *picked at* a salad while I ate my steak. **b** : to pull on (something) with your fingertips or your fingernails often because you are nervous ▪ She *picked at* the buttons on her jacket while waiting for her interview. ▪ He was *picking at* his shoelaces. **2** ***pick at (someone or something)*** : to criticize (someone or something) especially for small mistakes ▪ They're constantly arguing and *picking at* each other.
pick off [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***pick off (someone or something)*** *or* ***pick (someone or something) off*** : to aim at and shoot (someone or something) ▪ The hunters hid by the stream and waited to *pick off* deer as they passed. ▪ A sniper was *picking off* soldiers from the top of the building. **2** ***pick off (someone)*** *or* ***pick (someone) off*** *baseball* : to cause (a player who is standing close to a base) to be tagged out by making a quick throw ▪ The runner on second base was *picked off* by the catcher. ▪ The pitcher almost *picked* her *off* with a quick throw to first base. — see also PICKOFF
pick on [*phrasal verb*] ***pick on (someone)*** **1** : to laugh at or make fun of (someone) in an unkind way ▪ Kids used to *pick on* me for wearing old worn-out clothes. ▪ He used to get *picked on* by the other kids at the bus stop. ▪ Why is she always *picking on* me? ▪ Hey, why don't you *pick on* someone your own size? **2** : to unfairly criticize (one person or group) when others also deserve to be criticized ▪ It's unfair to *pick on* teachers for the problems in our schools when politicians are equally to blame.
pick out [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***pick (something) out*** *or* ***pick out (something)*** **a** : to choose or select (the best or most appropriate person or thing) from a group ▪ It took him an hour to *pick out* [=*pick*] what to wear. ▪ They let their two-year-old daughter *pick out* her own clothes. ▪ I've *picked out* the perfect spot for our picnic. ▪ *picking out* a gift for a friend **b** : to play (a song, melody, etc.) by playing each note separately ▪ She sat *picking out* a tune on the piano. **2** ***pick (someone or something) out*** *or* ***pick out (someone or something)*** : to see and identify (someone or something) ▪ His red hair makes it easy to *pick* him *out* of/in a crowd. ▪ The police had a witness *pick* the suspect *out* of a lineup. ▪ I could *pick out* the pattern against the background. ▪ No one was able to *pick out* the originals from the copies.
pick over [*phrasal verb*] ***pick over (something)*** *or* ***pick (something) over*** : to look at (a group of objects or an amount of material) in order to choose the best ones or to remove pieces you do not want ▪ They *picked over* the strawberries and threw away the green ones. ▪ *Pick over* the fish to remove any bones. ▪ The applications were thoroughly *picked over* and only the best applicants were given interviews.
pick pockets *or* ***pick someone's pocket*** : to steal money or objects from someone's pockets or purse ▪ One of the boys distracted her while the other *picked her pocket*. ▪ She survived on the streets by shoplifting and *picking pockets*. — see also PICKPOCKET
pick (someone or something) to pieces/shreds : to study and criticize all of the parts of (someone or something) ▪ The media *picked* his personal life *to pieces*. ▪ Her ideas were *picked to shreds* by her coworkers.
pick someone's brain/brains see [1]BRAIN
pick (something) clean : to remove all the material that covers something ▪ The birds *picked* the bones *clean*. = The bones were *picked clean* by the birds.
pick up [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***pick (someone or something) up*** *or* ***pick up (someone or something)*** **a** : to lift (someone or something) from the ground or a low surface ▪ Would you *pick* that pencil *up* for me, please? ▪ She *picked* the book *up* off/from the ground by its cover. ▪ He bent to *pick up* his hat. ▪ *Pick up* the ball! ▪ They *picked up* their guitars and started to play. ▪ She always *picks up* her baby when he cries. **b** : to go somewhere in order to get and bring back (someone or something) ▪ I have to *pick up* my kids at school. = I have to *pick* them *up* from school. ▪ Have you

picked up the car from the repair shop yet? ▪ He *picked up* his dry cleaning. ▪ They'll hold our tickets but we have to *pick* them *up* an hour before the show. **c :** to let or put (people or things) into or onto a car, bus, ship, etc. ▪ She had a taxi *pick* her *up* at the airport and take her to the hotel. ▪ Have you ever *picked up* a hitchhiker? ▪ The ship will be *picking up* more cargo at the next port. **2 a *pick up or pick (something) up or pick up (something)*** *chiefly US* **:** to make an area clean and organized by removing trash and putting things in the proper places ▪ We have just enough time to *pick up* [=*clean up*] and wash our hands before dinner. ▪ The children worked together to *pick up* the toys. ▪ *Pick up* that mess! ▪ You may go outside after you *pick* your room *up*. ▪ Everyone needs to help *pick up* the kitchen after dinner. ▪ We spent the morning *picking up* the yard after the storm. **b *pick up after (someone)*** **:** to clean the mess created by (someone) ▪ You have to *pick up after* yourself if you make a mess. ▪ His mother still *picks up after* him. **3 :** to answer a telephone ▪ I called your house, but no one *picked up*. ▪ She got to the phone just before the answering machine *picked up*. **4 :** to become busy usually after a period of little activity **:** to improve or increase in activity ▪ Sales slowed down after the winter holidays, but we're expecting things to *pick up* again this summer. ▪ Business really *picked up* last month. ▪ The economy/market seems to be *picking up*. **5 a :** to increase in speed or strength ▪ The wind will *pick up* later this afternoon. ▪ The movie starts out slowly, but the pace *picks up* when the two main characters meet for the first time. **b *pick up speed/momentum (etc.)*** **:** to begin to have more speed/momentum (etc.) ▪ The cyclists quickly *picked up speed* [=gained speed; began to go faster] as they headed down the mountain. ▪ His campaign has begun to *pick up momentum*. ▪ The idea began to ***pick up steam*** [=become more popular] around the turn of the century. **c *pick up the pace*** **:** to go faster ▪ If we want to finish on time, we're going to have to *pick up the pace*. **6 a :** to begin again after a temporary stop ▪ The discussion *picked up* this morning at the point where we had stopped yesterday. ▪ After being separated for three years, they ***picked up (right) where they left off***. **b *pick (something) up or pick up (something)*** **:** to start (something) again after a temporary stop ▪ We'll *pick up* this discussion tomorrow. **7 *pick (something) up or pick up (something)*** **a :** to buy or get (something) ▪ Have you *picked up* a copy of her new CD yet? ▪ On Tuesdays, he *picks up* dinner at our favorite restaurant and brings it home. ▪ She stopped to *pick up* a few groceries at the supermarket. **b :** to earn or gain (something) ▪ She'll likely *pick up* an award for her performance in the film. ▪ The team *picked up* [=*gained*] a few yards on the last play. ▪ They've finally *picked up* their first victory of the season. **c :** to become aware of (something, such as a story) and begin to write about it, work on it, etc. ▪ Few people had heard about this problem until the press *picked up* [=*took up*] the story. **d :** to learn (something) usually in an informal way ▪ I *picked up* a few French phrases on my trip to Paris. ▪ He seems to *pick* foreign languages *up* very easily. ▪ She uses a style of singing she *picked up* from listening to jazz music. ▪ He's been *picking up* some bad habits from his friends. **e :** to become sick with (an illness) from someone or something ▪ I think I *picked up* [=*caught*] a cold from someone at work. **f :** to be able to see, hear, or smell (something) ▪ This radio lets me *pick up* stations from other countries. ▪ The planes were *picked up* [=*detected*] by radar. ▪ telescopes *picking up* the faint glow of distant stars ▪ The dogs *picked up* the scent and started to bark. **:** to become aware of (something) ▪ He learned that he could *pick up* cues from his partner if he paid close attention. ▪ They studied the evidence and managed to *pick up* some clues. **8 *pick (someone) up or pick up (someone)*** **a :** to meet and begin a usually brief sexual relationship with (someone) ▪ She used to go to bars to *pick up* men. ▪ He *picked* her *up* at a club. **b** *of the police* **:** to use the power of the law to take and keep (someone, such as a criminal) ▪ The cops *picked up* the suspect at a local bar. ▪ The police *picked* him *up* [=arrested him] for trespassing/robbery/murder. ▪ The police *picked* him *up* for questioning. [=they brought him to the police station in order to ask him questions] **c :** to make (someone) feel more energetic and lively ▪ I drank some coffee hoping that it would *pick* me *up* a little. — see also PICK-ME-UP **d** *sports* **:** to get (a player) from another team or from some other source ▪ The team *picked up* three new players in the draft. ▪ They *picked* him *up* from a rival team. **e** *sports* **:** to begin to guard (a player from the opposite team) during a game ▪ Your job is to *pick up* an opposing player and block him. **9 *pick yourself up*** **a :** to stand up again after falling ▪ I fell to the ground but *picked myself up* and continued running. **b :** to recover from a difficult situation ▪ After his divorce, he *picked himself up* and started looking for love again. **10 *pick up and leave/go*** **:** to leave suddenly with your possessions ▪ I couldn't just *pick up and leave/go* without saying goodbye. **11 *pick up the tab/bill/check*** **:** to pay the money that is owed for something ▪ When she stays at expensive hotels during business trips, her company *picks up the tab*. ▪ They always offer to *pick up the check* when we go out to dinner with them. **12 *pick up the pieces*** **:** to try to make a situation better after something bad has happened ▪ After her business went bankrupt, she *picked up the pieces* and started again. ▪ They created the problem, and now they expect us to *pick up the pieces*. — see also *pick up the cudgels for* at ¹CUDGEL, *pick up the gauntlet* at ²GAUNTLET, *pick up the slack* at ²SLACK, *pick up the threads* at ¹THREAD

pick up on [*phrasal verb*] **1 *pick up on (something)*** **a :** to notice or become aware of (something) ▪ He didn't *pick up on* the hint. ▪ I seemed to be the only one who *picked up on* the mistake. ▪ The reader soon *picks up on* the fact that the story's main character is crazy. ▪ She was nervous, but no one *picked up on* it. **b :** to take (something, such as an idea) from another person or group and use it or continue to develop it yourself ▪ The media has recently begun to *pick up on* this issue. ▪ The fashion world *picked up on* this trend after she wore that dress to the award show. ▪ The other students quickly *picked up on* [=*adopted*] the expression. **c :** to continue talking about (a statement, subject, etc.) ▪ I'd like to *pick up on* your last comment. ▪ She began the class by *picking up on* a point she made earlier. **2 *pick up (someone) on (something) or pick (someone) up on (something)*** *Brit* **:** to question (someone) about (something said or done) ▪ I'd like to *pick up* the last speaker *on* one of the points she made. ▪ When he said that whales were fish, I felt I had to *pick* him *up on* it. [=to challenge him on it]

pick your way *always followed by an adverb or preposition* **:** to walk very slowly while carefully choosing where to put your feet ▪ The horses slowly *pick their way* across the rocky ground. ▪ We *picked our way* down the muddy path.

²pick *noun, pl* **picks**

1 [*singular*] **:** the ability to choose the person or thing that you want ▪ If you get there early enough, you'll ***have your pick*** of seats. ▪ All of these restaurants are good. ***Take your pick***. [=choose any of them] ▪ The girls got to choose their partners, and she got (the) ***first pick***. [=she was able to choose her partner first]

2 [*count*] **:** someone or something that is chosen ▪ My *picks* [=choices] are the roasted duck and the chocolate cake. — usually singular ▪ Who is your *pick* to win? [=who do you think will win?] ▪ The team made him the second *pick* [=the second person who was chosen] in the 1998 draft. ▪ She was their ***number one pick***. = She was their ***first pick***. [=she was the person they wanted most] ▪ Here is our ***top pick*** *for* this year's wine list.

3 [*singular*] **:** the best part of something or the best thing or things in a group — used in the phrase ***the pick of*** ▪ It was surely *the pick of* this year's films. [=it was the best film this year] ▪ I read many books this summer, and that was ***the pick of the bunch***. [=the best of the bunch/group] ▪ There are many good cars on the market now, but this one is clearly ***the pick of the litter***. [=the best one]

– compare ³PICK

³pick *noun, pl* **picks** [*count*]

1 : a large tool that has a long handle and a heavy metal bar that is pointed at one or both ends and that is used for breaking rocks or digging in hard ground — see also ICE PICK, TOOTHPICK

2 : a small, thin piece of plastic or metal that is used to play a guitar or similar instrument — called also *plectrum*

– compare ²PICK

pick–and–mix *or* **pick'n'mix** *adj, Brit* **:** having a mixture of different things that you can choose ▪ The shop offers a *pick-and-mix* assortment of new and used items. ▪ a *pick'n'mix* approach to the problem

pick·ax (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **pick·axe** /ˈpɪkˌæks/ *noun, pl* **-axes** [*count*] **:** ³PICK 1

picked /ˈpɪkt/ *adj* **:** carefully chosen ▪ a *picked* [=(more commonly) *handpicked*] group/team/force of soldiers

pick•er /ˈpɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person or machine that picks crops ▪ fruit/orange/strawberry *pickers* ▪ a cotton *picker*

pick•er•el /ˈpɪkərəl/ *noun, pl* **pickerel** [*count*] : a small North American fish that lives in rivers and streams

[1]pick•et /ˈpɪkət/ *noun, pl* **-ets** [*count*]

1 : a stick or post that is pointed at the end so that it can be put into the ground ▪ a house surrounded by a white ***picket fence***

2 a : a person or group of people who are standing or marching near a place to protest something ▪ *Pickets* marched in front of the company headquarters. ▪ The strikers held ***picket signs*** painted with angry slogans. **b** *Brit* : a protest or strike involving pickets ▪ The students were barred from holding a *picket* outside the company's headquarters.

3 : a soldier or a group of soldiers whose duty is to guard something (such as a camp)

[2]picket *verb* **-ets; -et•ed; -et•ing**

1 : to stand or march in a public place in order to protest something or to prevent other workers from going to work during a strike [*no obj*] Workers *picketed* outside the grocery store. [+ *obj*] The union is *picketing* the factory.

2 [+ *obj*] : to guard (something, such as a road or camp) with a group of soldiers

pick•et•er /ˈpɪkətɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *US* : a person who stands or marches in front of a business, a government building, etc., as a form of protest — usually plural ▪ *Picketers* crowded the sidewalk in front of the clinic.

picket line *noun, pl* ~ **lines** [*count*] : a line or group of people who are refusing to go to work until their employer agrees to certain demands ▪ She joined her coworkers on the *picket line*. ▪ The other employees refused to ***cross the picket line***. [=to work while other workers were picketing]

picking *noun* [*noncount*] : the activity of removing fruits from a plant for use ▪ Berry *picking* is a favorite summer activity. ▪ We're going apple *picking*.

pick•ings /ˈpɪkɪŋz, ˈpɪkənz/ *noun* [*plural*] *informal* : opportunities for getting the things you want or need ▪ I try to go to yard sales early to get the best *pickings*. ▪ It was ***slim pickings*** [=there were very few good things to choose from] at this year's show. ▪ thieves looking for ***easy pickings*** ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) ***rich pickings***

[1]pick•le /ˈpɪkəl/ *noun, pl* **pick•les**

1 [*count*] *chiefly US* : a cucumber that is preserved in salt water or vinegar — see also DILL PICKLE

2 [*noncount*] *Brit* : a thick, cold sauce made of chopped vegetables preserved in vinegar

3 [*singular*] *informal* : an unpleasant or difficult situation — usually used in the phrase ***in a pickle*** ▪ We were *in a pickle* when we missed our deadline.

[2]pickle *verb* **pickles; pick•led; pick•ling** [+ *obj*] : to preserve (food) with salt water or vinegar ▪ They *pickled* the cabbage.

pickled *adj*

1 : preserved with salt water or vinegar ▪ *pickled* ginger ▪ The herring is *pickled*.

2 *not used before a noun, informal* : very drunk or intoxicated ▪ He got *pickled* at the office party.

pick–me–up /ˈpɪkmiˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*] : something (such as a drink) that makes you feel better and more lively ▪ Coffee is my usual morning *pick-me-up*. ▪ I could really use a *pick-me-up* after the day I just had.

pick'n'mix *variant spelling of* PICK-AND-MIX

pick•off /ˈpɪkˌɑːf/ *noun, pl* **-offs** [*count*] *US, baseball* : a play in which a runner who is close to a base is tagged out when the pitcher or catcher quickly throws the ball to that base ▪ He made a *pickoff* throw to third base. — see also *pick off* at [1]PICK

pick•pock•et /ˈpɪkˌpɑːkət/ *noun, pl* **-ets** [*count*] : a thief who steals money and other things from people's pockets and purses — see also *pick pockets* at [1]PICK

[1]pick•up /ˈpɪkˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups**

1 [*count*] : a small truck that has an open back with low sides — called also *pickup truck*; see picture at TRUCK

2 : the act of going somewhere to get a person or thing that you will then take to another place [*noncount*] The fee pays for garbage/trash *pickup*. ▪ Is this order for *pickup* or delivery? [=do you want to come and get the order yourself, or do you want us to deliver the order to you?] ▪ Your pizza will be ready for *pickup* [=you can pick up your pizza] in 20 minutes. [*count*] The school bus was late for its afternoon *pickup*. ▪ The truck is scheduled to make a *pickup* today.

3 [*count*] : an increase in activity — usually + *in* ▪ They saw a *pickup in* business during the last quarter. ▪ Several of our stores have reported a *pickup in* orders. ▪ a *pickup in* consumer spending

4 [*noncount*] *US* : the ability of a vehicle to increase speed quickly ▪ The car corners well and has good *pickup*. [=(more formally) *acceleration*]

5 [*count*] : a person you meet and have a usually brief sexual relationship with ▪ He looked for *pickups* in singles bars.

6 [*count*] : a device on a musical instrument (such as an electric guitar) that makes sounds louder by changing them into electrical signals ▪ a guitar *pickup*

7 [*count*] *sports* : a player who becomes part of a team after being obtained from another team ▪ He joined the team as a free agent *pickup* last summer.

[2]pickup *adj, always used before a noun, US*

1 : organized informally with people who are available or nearby at the time ▪ He plays with *pickup* bands at nightclubs. ▪ a *pickup* football game ▪ playing *pickup* basketball

2 : of or relating to the act of trying to meet strangers in order to have brief sexual relationships with them ▪ What's the *pickup* scene like in this city? ▪ He tried using one of his ***pickup lines*** [=a comment used to start a conversation with someone you are attracted to] on her, but it didn't work.

picky /ˈpɪki/ *adj* **pick•i•er; -est** : very careful or too careful about choosing or accepting things : hard to please ▪ He's a *picky* [=*fussy*] eater. ▪ She's very *picky* [=*choosy*] about what brands of shoes she'll wear.

[1]pic•nic /ˈpɪknɪk/ *noun, pl* **-nics** [*count*]

1 a : a meal that is eaten outdoors especially during a trip away from home ▪ We decided to have a *picnic* on the beach. ▪ We ate our *picnic* by the lake. **b** : a trip or party that includes a meal eaten outdoors ▪ This weekend I have a family *picnic* [=a picnic with family members] to go to. ▪ The annual school/company *picnic* is this weekend. ✧ If you ***go on a picnic***, you go somewhere to have a picnic ▪ Let's *go on a picnic* today.

2 *informal* : something that is pleasant or easy ▪ This winter is a *picnic* compared with last year's. — often used in negative statements ▪ Breaking a leg is no *picnic*. [=breaking a leg is not a pleasant experience] ▪ Being president isn't exactly a *picnic*. [=being president is not easy]

[2]picnic *verb* **-nics; -nicked; -nick•ing** [*no obj*] : to eat a meal outdoors especially during a trip away from home : to have a picnic ▪ We *picnicked* in the park.

– **pic•nick•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ The park was full of *picnickers*.

pic•to•ri•al /pɪkˈtorijəl/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : of or relating to painting or drawing ▪ *pictorial* art

2 : having or using pictures ▪ *pictorial* magazines ▪ a *pictorial* message ▪ a *pictorial* record of the trip

– **pic•to•ri•al•ly** *adv*

[1]pic•ture /ˈpɪkʧɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tures**

1 [*count*] : a painting, drawing, or photograph of someone or something ▪ I hung the *picture* on the wall. ▪ The book has a lot of *pictures*. ▪ Draw a *picture* of your house. ▪ We looked at family *pictures*. [=*photos*] ▪ We took *pictures* [=*photographs*] of the wedding. ▪ a ***picture frame*** [=a frame for holding a picture]

2 [*count*] : an idea of how something or someone looks, of what something is like, etc. — usually singular ▪ I have a mental *picture* of what he looks like. ▪ The book gives us a *picture* of life in a small village. ▪ I don't yet have a full *picture* of what's going on. ▪ After your explanation, I have a better/clearer *picture* of what to expect. ▪ (*informal*) You've said enough. I ***get the picture***. [=I understand; I get the idea]

3 [*noncount*] : a general situation ▪ The staff looked at the financial *picture* of the company. ▪ The overall economic *picture* is improving. ▪ Marriage never ***entered the picture*** [=was never considered] until now. ▪ After a brief separation, her boyfriend is back ***in the picture***. [=she is dating him again] ▪ With last year's winner ***out of the picture*** [=no longer in the competition], she has a good chance of winning. — see also BIG PICTURE

4 [*count*] : an image on the screen of a television set ▪ The *picture* is fuzzy.

5 a [*count*] : a movie or film ▪ "Casablanca" won the award for Best *Picture* in 1943. **b** ***the pictures*** *old-fashioned* : a showing of a movie in a theater ▪ I took my girlfriend to *the pictures*. [=(*US*) *the movies*] **c** ***pictures*** [*plural*] : the movies or movie industry ▪ He wants to work ***in pictures***.

6 [*noncount*] **a** : someone or something that looks exactly

like someone or something else • He is ***the picture of*** his father. [=he looks just like his father] **b :** a perfect example of something • She is *the picture of* health. [=she looks very healthy]

a picture is worth a thousand words see ¹WORTH

(as) pretty as a picture see ¹PRETTY

keep someone in the picture *or* ***put someone in the picture*** *chiefly Brit* **:** to give someone the information that is needed to understand something • Teachers meet regularly with parents to *keep them in the picture* about their child's progress. • I'll *put you in the picture* as soon as a final decision has been made.

paint/draw a picture of **:** to create an idea or understanding of something or someone through words, facts, etc. • The author *paints a* disturbing *picture of* life in the camp. • These statistics *paint a* clear *picture of* how the population is aging.

²picture *verb* **-tures; -tured; -tur•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to have a thought, understanding, or idea about (something or someone) : IMAGINE • I can still *picture* the house I grew up in. • I can't *picture* changing jobs at this point in my life. • *Picture* what it would be like if you didn't own a car. • Can you *picture* him as a teacher?

2 : to show or represent (someone or something) in a painting, drawing, or photograph — usually used as *(be) pictured* • She *is pictured* here with her sister.

3 : to describe (something or someone) in a particular way — + *as*; usually used as *(be) pictured* • She *is pictured* [=*portrayed*] *as* being very businesslike.

picture book *noun, pl* **~ books** [*count*] **:** a book that has many pictures and is usually for children

picture–book *adj, always used before a noun* **:** very pretty or charming : like a picture in a picture book • *picture-book* scenery

picture card *noun, pl* **~ cards** [*count*] *Brit* **:** FACE CARD

picture–perfect *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *US* **:** having an appearance or quality that is exactly right : completely perfect • The pilot made a *picture-perfect* landing. • The bride looked *picture-perfect*. [=the bride looked beautiful]

picture postcard *noun, pl* **~ -cards** [*count*] *old-fashioned* **:** a postcard with a photograph or picture on one side

picture–postcard *adj, always used before a noun* **:** very pretty or charming : like a picture on a picture postcard • a *picture-postcard* village

pic•tur•esque /ˌpɪkʧəˈrɛsk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : very pretty or charming : like a painted picture • a *picturesque* village/setting • The view of the mountains was very *picturesque*.

2 : telling about something in a way that makes it very easy to imagine : causing someone to have a very clear mental picture of something • He gave a *picturesque* [=*vivid*] account of his travels.

picture tube *noun, pl* **~ tubes** [*count*] **:** CATHODE-RAY TUBE

picture window *noun, pl* **~ -dows** [*count*] **:** a large window that is made from a single piece of glass — see picture at WINDOW

pid•dle /ˈpɪdl/ *verb* **pid•dles; pid•dled; pid•dling** [*no obj*] *informal* **:** URINATE • The dog *piddled* [=*peed*] on the rug.

piddle around [*phrasal verb*] *chiefly US, informal* **:** to waste time doing something that is not important or useful • We should stop *piddling around* and get busy.

piddle away [*phrasal verb*] ***piddle (something) away*** *or* ***piddle away (something)*** *chiefly US, informal* **:** to waste (something, such as time, money, an opportunity, etc.) • We *piddled* the whole morning *away* doing nothing. • He *piddled away* his entire paycheck.

pid•dling /ˈpɪdlən/ *adj, always used before a noun, informal* + *disapproving* **:** small or unimportant • He was paid a *piddling* amount of money. • *piddling* details

pid•dly /ˈpɪdli/ *adj, always used before a noun, informal* + *disapproving* **:** PIDDLING • I don't want to argue about *piddly* details.

pid•gin /ˈpɪʤən/ *noun, pl* **-gins** [*count, noncount*] **:** a language that is formed from a mixture of several languages when speakers of different languages need to talk to each other — often used before another noun • linguists studying *pidgin* languages around the world • He spoke to me in ***Pidgin English***. [=English mixed with words from other languages]

pie /ˈpaɪ/ *noun, pl* **pies :** a food that consists of a pastry crust that is filled with fruit, meat, etc. [*count*] The bakery sells *pies* and cakes. [*noncount*] Would you like a piece/slice of apple *pie*? • I would like some *pie*. • a *pie* plate [=a dish used for holding a pie] — see picture at BAKING; see also BOSTON CREAM PIE, POTPIE, SHEPHERD'S PIE

a piece/slice/share of the pie **:** a portion of a particular amount of money • The state needs to give public schools a larger *piece of the pie*. [=the state needs to give public schools more funds] • He's the best player on the team and he wants a bigger *slice of the pie*. [=he wants more money]

(as) easy as pie see ¹EASY

eat humble pie see EAT

have a finger in a/the pie see ¹FINGER

– see also COW PIE, CUTIE-PIE, PIE CHART, PIE IN THE SKY, SWEETIE PIE

pie•bald /ˈpaɪˌbɑ:ld/ *adj, always used before a noun* **:** spotted with two different colors (especially black and white) • a *piebald* horse

¹piece /ˈpi:s/ *noun, pl* **piec•es**

1 [*count*] **a :** an amount that is cut or separated from a larger section of something • Divide the pie into six equal *pieces*. • The cheese was cut into small *pieces* and arranged on a silver platter. — often + *of* • I need a few more *pieces of* tape. • a long *piece of* string • a *piece of* wood/metal/plastic/leather/cloth • a *piece of* steak/chicken/fish • a *piece* [=*slice*] *of* pizza/bread/cake — see also PIECE OF CAKE **b :** an amount of something considered separately from the rest — + *of* • She bought a small *piece of* land/property in the country.

2 [*count*] **:** a small often broken part of something • *pieces* [=*fragments*] of broken glass • You have a *piece* of lettuce stuck between your teeth. • Her broken bicycle lay ***in pieces*** by the side of the road. • I watched her rip the letter ***to/into pieces*** and throw it away. • The old bridge was ***blown to pieces*** [=*blown apart*] during the war.

3 [*count*] **:** one of the parts that form a complete thing when they are put together • There are 12 *pieces* in this stainless steel knife set. • a jigsaw puzzle with 500 *pieces* • We're missing one *piece* of the puzzle. • They built up the stone wall one *piece* at a time. = They built up the stone wall ***piece by piece***. • I took apart the engine *piece by piece* and put it back together again. • (*Brit*) The rifle ***comes to pieces*** [=it separates into parts] for easy storage. • (*Brit*) They ***took*** the bed ***to pieces*** [=they took apart the bed] and moved it out of the room. — often used in combination • a three-*piece* suit • one-*piece* bathing suits • a five-*piece* band

4 [*singular*] **:** a part of someone or something that is shared with other people : PORTION — + *of* • a *piece of* the jackpot • They went there to claim a *piece of* the American dream for themselves. • The town is growing fast, and these construction companies want a *piece of* the new housing market. • Once she became famous, everyone wanted ***a piece of her***. = Everyone wanted a *piece of* her time. [=everyone wanted her to do things for them] — see also *a piece of the action* at ACTION, *a piece of the pie* at PIE

5 [*count*] **:** one of a particular type of thing — + *of* • Please take out a *piece* [=*sheet*] *of* paper and write your name on the top. • I packed three *pieces of* fruit: two apples and a banana. • a *piece of* candy/chalk • We had several new *pieces of* furniture delivered to our home. • You got two *pieces of* mail today. • a *piece of* clothing • an expensive *piece of* jewelry/luggage/equipment • His last car was ***a piece of junk***. [=it was worthless or of poor quality] — see also CONVERSATION PIECE, PIECE OF WORK

6 [*count*] **:** an example or amount of something — usually singular; + *of* • May I offer you a *piece* [=*bit*] *of* advice? [=may I offer you some advice?] • I just heard a wonderful *piece of* news! • a new *piece of* information/evidence • an important *piece of* legislation • a silly *piece of* nonsense • That's a really nice *piece of* work you've done there! • an impressive *piece of* acting • a famous *piece* [=*work*] *of* art/literature/music

7 [*count*] **a :** a work of art, music, drama, or literature • The statue *David* is one of Michelangelo's most famous *pieces*. • a *piece* painted by Pablo Picasso • Next, we will be performing a *piece* by J. S. Bach. • a piano *piece* = a *piece* (written) for piano • They performed a short dramatic *piece* written for the king's birthday. — see also MUSEUM PIECE, PERIOD PIECE, SET PIECE **b :** an article in a newspaper or magazine or one of the parts of a television or radio news program • He has written several *pieces* for the magazine. • The newspaper printed her ***opinion piece*** [=an article that expresses someone's beliefs or views] criticizing the president. — often + *about* or *on* • Did you see that *piece about/on* the earthquake survivors? — see also PUFF PIECE

8 [*count*] **:** one of the small movable objects in a game like

P

chess or checkers ▪ Move your *piece* [=*man*] forward three spaces. ▪ capturing an opponent's *pieces*

9 [*count*] **a** : a coin that has a specified value ▪ a 50-cent *piece* ▪ a 10-pence *piece* **b** : a coin that is made of a specified metal ▪ 30 gold *pieces*

10 [*count*] : GUN ▪ (*chiefly US, informal*) He reached into his pocket and pulled out a *piece*. [=*handgun*] ▪ ***artillery pieces*** [=large guns that shoot over long distances] from the First World War

11 [*singular*] *US, informal* : an amount of distance that is not specified ▪ Their house is a fair *piece* from here. [=is a fairly long way away from here] ▪ It's down the road a *piece*.

bits and pieces see ¹BIT

fall to pieces **1** : to break into parts ▪ The old map *fell to pieces* [=*came apart*, *fell apart*] in my hands. **2** : to become ruined or destroyed ▪ His life *fell to pieces* after his divorce. **3** : to become unable to control your emotions ▪ She *falls to pieces* [=*breaks down*] when she tries to talk about the accident. ▪ When he heard the bad news, he just *fell to pieces*. [=he started to cry]

give someone a piece of your mind see ¹MIND

go to pieces : to become unable to behave normally because you are very nervous or upset ▪ He tends to *go to pieces* [=*break down*] under pressure. ▪ I *go* (all) *to pieces* if I have to talk in front of a large group of people.

in one piece : without being hurt or damaged ▪ It was a difficult trip, but we all made it home *in one piece*. [=*safe and sound*] ▪ All our furniture arrived *in one piece*.

of a piece **1** : having similar qualities or characteristics : matching each other or belonging together ▪ She believes that the two crimes are *of a piece*. [=are very similar] ▪ We chose these 12 songs for the album because they were ***all of a piece***. **2** : in agreement or harmony *with* something ▪ This new theory is very much *of a piece* [=(more commonly) *consistent*] *with* their earlier work.

pick (someone or something) to pieces see ¹PICK

pick up the pieces see *pick up* at ¹PICK

say your piece : to say what you want to say : to express your opinions or ideas ▪ You will all be given a chance to *say your piece* [=*speak your mind*] at the meeting tonight. ▪ You've *said your piece*, now please let me respond.

tear (someone or something) to pieces see ¹TEAR

to pieces *informal* : to a very great degree : very much ▪ We're thrilled *to pieces* [=*to bits*] that you've decided to stay! ▪ She loves him *to pieces*. — see also ¹PIECE 2, 3 (above)

²piece *verb* **pieces**; **pieced**; **piec·ing**

piece together [*phrasal verb*] ***piece (something) together*** *or* ***piece together (something)*** : to make (something) by bringing together various parts or pieces ▪ She *pieced* the quilt *together* from scraps of old cloth. ▪ Watching the movie was like *piecing together* [=*putting together*] a jigsaw puzzle. : to bring together (various parts or pieces) to form one complete thing ▪ The police had to *piece together* reports from several witnesses to get an accurate account of what happened. ▪ *piecing together* the clues/evidence

pièce de ré·sis·tance /pi,ɛsdərə,zi:'stɑ:ns/ *noun, pl* **pièces de ré·sis·tance** /pi,ɛsdərə,zi:'stɑ:ns/ [*count*] : the best or most important thing or event ▪ The *pièce de résistance* of the whole concert was when the two bands came onstage to perform together. ▪ The waiter suggested we try the restaurant's *pièce de résistance*: the chocolate soufflé.

piece·meal /'pi:s'mi:l/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : done or made in a gradual way in a series of separate steps ▪ They've done *piecemeal* repairs in the past, but the bridge now needs major reconstruction. ▪ Some people want the changes to be made all at once, but I think we should take a more *piecemeal* approach.

– **piecemeal** *adv* ▪ Our parents started selling off the family farm *piecemeal* [=*gradually*, *piece by piece*] several years ago, and now there are only five acres left.

piece of cake *noun* [*singular*] *informal* : something that is easy to do ▪ "How was the test?" "The essay portion was hard, but the rest was a *piece of cake*." [=*cinch*, *breeze*]

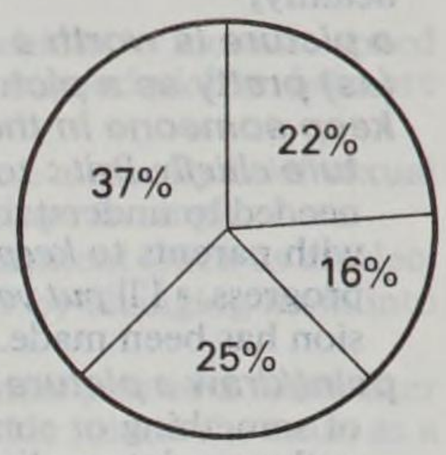
piece of work *noun, pl* **pieces of work** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal + often disapproving* : someone who is difficult to understand : a complicated or strange person ▪ She's a *piece of work*, isn't she? ▪ Man, that guy's a real *piece of work*.

a nasty piece of work *chiefly Brit* : an unkind or unpleasant person ▪ Her boyfriend is *a nasty piece of work*.

piece·work /'pi:s,wɚk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : work in which you are paid for each thing you make or do and not for the amount of time you work ▪ doing *piecework* in a factory — often used before another noun ▪ *piecework* rates/earnings

– **piece·work·er** /'pi:s,wɚkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

pie chart *noun, pl* ~ **charts** [*count*] : a chart consisting of a circle that is divided into parts to show the size of the different amounts that are a part of a whole amount



pie chart

pie·crust /'paɪ,krʌst/ *noun, pl* **-crusts** [*count*] : the outer part of a pie

pie hole *noun, pl* ~ **holes** [*count*] *US slang* : someone's mouth ▪ teenagers shoving pizza down their *pie holes* ▪ ***Shut your pie hole***! [=*shut up*; stop talking]

pie in the sky *noun* [*noncount*] : something good that someone says will happen but that seems impossible or unlikely : a very unlikely or unrealistic goal, plan, etc. ▪ His plan to reduce the national debt seems like *pie in the sky*.

– **pie–in–the–sky** *adj* ▪ Voters did not believe his *pie-in-the-sky* promises.

pier /'piɚ/ *noun, pl* **piers** [*count*] : a structure that goes out from a shore into the water ✧ Piers are typically used as a place for ships to load and unload people or things or as a place where people can walk. ▪ The ferry leaves from *pier* 4. ▪ People were fishing off the *pier*. ▪ Couples walked on/along the *pier*.

pierce /'piɚs/ *verb* **pierc·es**; **pierced**; **pierc·ing**

1 : to make a hole in or through (something) [+ *obj*] The needle *pierced* her skin. ▪ The bullet *pierced* his lung. ▪ She had her ears *pierced*. = She *pierced* her ears. [=she had holes made in her ears so that she could wear earrings] [*no obj*] The needle *pierced* into her skin. ▪ The bullet *pierced* through his lung.

2 : to go through or into (something) in a forceful or noticeable way [+ *obj*] A scream *pierced* the silence. ▪ The fog was *pierced* by a dim light. [=a dim light could be seen through the fog] [*no obj*] — often + *through* ▪ The flashlight *pierced through* the darkness. ▪ A scream *pierced through* the air. ▪ The troops *pierced through* the enemy's defenses.

pierced *adj*

1 *of a body part* : having a hole that was made so that a piece of jewelry can be worn through it ▪ She has *pierced* ears. ▪ a *pierced* nose/navel

2 : having holes made in one or more parts of your body so you can wear jewelry in them ▪ a tattooed and *pierced* musician

¹piercing *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 [*noncount*] : the act or practice of decorating your body with jewelry or other objects that are attached directly to your skin ▪ There's a small shop in town where they do tattooing and ***body piercing***.

2 [*count*] : a hole through part of the body where a piece of jewelry can be attached ▪ She got another ear *piercing*.

²piercing *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : seeming to have the power to see a person's thoughts or feelings ▪ She looked at me with *piercing* eyes, and I was suddenly frightened that she knew what I had done. ▪ I tried to avoid his *piercing* stare.

2 : very loud and high-pitched ▪ a *piercing* scream/voice

3 : having a strong affect on someone : felt in a very noticeable way ▪ She felt a *piercing* sadness when she heard the news.

4 : very cold ▪ a *piercing* wind

– **pierc·ing·ly** *adv* ▪ My father looked *piercingly* at me. ▪ It is *piercingly* cold outside.

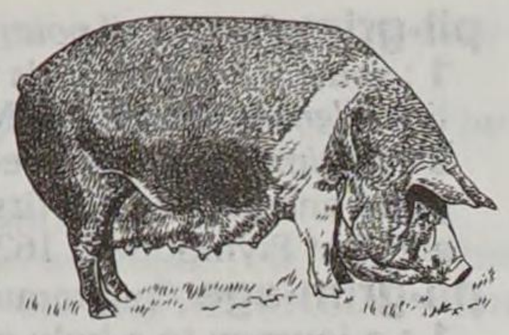
pi·e·ty /'pajəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : devotion to God : the quality or state of being pious ▪ He was admired for his extreme *piety*. ▪ an act of *piety*

pif·fle /'pɪfəl/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal + old-fashioned* : words or ideas that are false or silly : NONSENSE ▪ His story is complete *piffle*.

pif·fling /'pɪfəlɪŋ/ *adj, chiefly Brit, informal + disapproving* : small and unimportant ▪ a *piffling* [=*piddling*] amount of money

¹pig /'pɪg/ *noun, pl* **pigs**

1 [*count*] : an animal that has a fat body with short legs, a small tail, and a wide nose and that is raised on a farm or lives in the wild — compare HOG, PIGLET, SOW; see also GUINEA PIG, POTBELLIED PIG



pig

2 [*count*] *informal* + *disapproving* **a** : someone who eats a lot of food especially at one time ▪ The kids eat like *pigs*. [=the kids eat a lot] ▪ I ***made a pig of myself*** at dinner. [=I ate too much at dinner] **b** : someone who selfishly wants or takes more than other people ▪ a greedy *pig* **c** : someone who is unpleasant or offensive ▪ Don't be a *pig*. Say "excuse me" after you burp. ▪ They live like *pigs*. [=they live in a dirty environment] ▪ He is a sexist *pig*. = He is a ***male chauvinist pig***. [=he is a man who thinks women are not equal to men]

3 [*count*] *slang, offensive* : POLICE OFFICER

4 [*singular*] *Brit, informal* : something that is very difficult or unpleasant — + *of* ▪ I had ***a pig of a*** day at work. [=I had a very difficult day at work]

a pig in a poke *old-fashioned* : something usually of poor quality that someone tries to persuade you to buy or accept when you do not know much about it ▪ If you buy a used car without testing it, you're buying *a pig in a poke*.

in a pig's eye see [1]EYE

make a pig's ear (out) of *Brit, informal* : to do or manage something badly ▪ He has *made a pig's ear of* his reelection campaign.

pig in the middle see [1]PIGGY

pigs might fly *Brit, informal* — said as a response to something that seems unlikely to happen ▪ "This time I think he'll ask me to marry him!" "Yeah, and *pigs might fly*."

when pigs fly *US, informal* — used to say that you think that something will never happen ▪ The train station will be renovated *when pigs fly*. [=it will never be renovated]

[2]pig *verb* **pigs**; **pigged**; **pig•ging**

pig out [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to eat a lot of food at one time ▪ I *pigged out* at the picnic. — often + *on* ▪ The boys *pigged out on* pizza.

pi•geon /ˈpɪʤən/ *noun, pl* **-geons** [*count*] : a gray bird that is common in cities and that has a fat body and short legs — see color picture on page C9; see also CLAY PIGEON, HOMING PIGEON, STOOL PIGEON

[1]pi•geon•hole /ˈpɪʤənˌhoʊl/ *verb* **-holes**; **-holed**; **-hol•ing** [+ *obj*] *disapproving* : to unfairly think of or describe (someone or something) as belonging to a particular group, having only a particular skill, etc. ▪ She likes to perform different types of music because she doesn't want to be *pigeonholed*. — often + *as* ▪ She doesn't want to be *pigeonholed as* a jazz musician.

[2]pigeonhole *noun, pl* **-holes** [*count*]

1 *chiefly Brit* : a small open space in a desk, cabinet, or wall for keeping letters or papers

2 *disapproving* — used to say that someone or something is being unfairly thought of or described as belonging to a particular group, having only a particular skill, etc. ▪ He's a talented actor who doesn't want to be ***put in a pigeonhole***. [=doesn't want to be pigeonholed]

pi•geon–toed /ˈpɪʤənˌtoʊd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having feet that are turned toward each other so that the toes do not point straight ahead ▪ The child is *pigeon-toed*.

pig•gery /ˈpɪgəri/ *noun, pl* **-ger•ies** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a place where pigs are kept or raised

pig•gish /ˈpɪgɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *chiefly US, informal* + *disapproving* : greedy, offensive, or unpleasant ▪ a *piggish* demand for more money ▪ He has a *piggish* attitude toward women.

– **pig•gish•ly** *adv*

[1]pig•gy /ˈpɪgi/ *noun, pl* **-gies** [*count*] *informal* : a pig ✧ *Piggy* is used especially by children or when talking to children. ▪ Hey, look at the little *piggy*!

piggy in the middle *also* ***pig in the middle*** *Brit, informal* : someone who is brought into an argument between two people or groups ▪ They're arguing again, and I'm *piggy in the middle*.

[2]piggy *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* + *disapproving* : PIGGISH ▪ *piggy* behavior

[1]pig•gy•back /ˈpɪgiˌbæk/ *noun, pl* **-backs** [*count*] : the act of carrying someone on your back or shoulders ▪ Her father gave her a *piggyback*. = Her father gave her a ***piggyback ride***. [=her father carried her on his back]

– **piggyback** *adv* ▪ a child being carried *piggyback*

[2]piggyback *verb* **-backs**; **-backed**; **-back•ing** : to be carried by or connected to something else or to cause (something) to be carried by or connected to something else — usually used figuratively [*no obj*] Other companies are trying to *piggyback* on our success. [=trying to use our success to help themselves] [+ *obj*] The legislation is being *piggybacked* on another bill. [=is being added to another bill so that they will both be passed together]

piggy bank *noun, pl* ~ **banks** [*count*] : a container that is often shaped like a pig with a narrow opening in the top and that is used for saving coins

pig•head•ed /ˈpɪgˌhɛdəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving* : refusing to do what other people want or to change your opinion or the way you do something : very stubborn ▪ He was too *pigheaded* to listen to my suggestion.

– **pig•head•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

pig in a blanket *noun, pl* **pigs in a blanket** *or* **pigs in blankets** [*count*] *US* : a small hot dog that is served in a wrapping of baked dough

pig Latin *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : a playful way of speaking English in which the sound at the beginning of a word is moved to the end and the sound "ay" is added ▪ "Oseclay the oorday" is *pig Latin* for "close the door."

pig•let /ˈpɪglət/ *noun, pl* **-lets** [*count*] : a baby pig

pig•ment /ˈpɪgmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**

1 : a natural substance that gives color to animals and plants [*count*] Chlorophyll is a group of green *pigments*. ▪ Melanin is a *pigment* that gives color to skin and fur. [*noncount*] Albinos lack normal skin *pigment*.

2 : a substance that gives color to something else [*count*] *Pigments* are used to give color to paint, ink, and plastic. [*noncount*] Red *pigment* is mixed into the ink.

– **pig•ment•ed** /ˈpɪgˌmɛntəd/ *adj* ▪ dark *pigmented* skin ▪ *pigmented* paints

pig•men•ta•tion /ˌpɪgmənˈteɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the natural coloring of people, animals, or plants ▪ dark skin *pigmentation*

pigmy *variant spelling of* PYGMY

pig•pen /ˈpɪgˌpɛn/ *noun, pl* **-pens** [*count*] *US*

1 : PIGSTY 1

2 : PIGSTY 2 ▪ Their house is a real *pigpen*.

pig•skin /ˈpɪgˌskɪn/ *noun, pl* **-skins**

1 [*noncount*] : leather made from the skin of a pig ▪ The collar is made of *pigskin*. — often used before another noun ▪ a *pigskin* jacket

2 [*count*] *US, informal* : the ball used in American football ▪ We threw the *pigskin* [=*football*] around.

pig•sty /ˈpɪgˌstaɪ/ *noun, pl* **-sties** [*count*]

1 : a place where pigs are kept — called also (*US*) *pigpen, sty*

2 *informal* : a dirty or messy place ▪ His room was a *pigsty*. — called also (*US*) *pigpen, sty*

pig•tails /ˈpɪgˌteɪlz/ *noun* [*plural*] : hair tied in two ponytails or braids with one on each side of the head ▪ I want to wear *pigtails*, but my mom tells me that they're for little girls. ▪ She wore her hair ***in pigtails***. — see picture at HAIR

– **pig•tailed** /ˈpɪgˌteɪld/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *pigtailed* little girl

[1]pike /ˈpaɪk/ *noun, pl* **pike** *or* **pikes** [*count*] : a large fish that lives in rivers and lakes and that has a long body and sharp teeth — compare [2]PIKE, [3]PIKE

[2]pike *noun, pl* **pikes** [*count*] *US, informal* : a road that people must pay to use : TURNPIKE — usually used with *the* ▪ There might be a lot of traffic on *the pike*.

down the pike *US, informal* **1** : in the future ▪ Today's technology is only a hint at what's *down the pike*. [=down the road] **2** ***come down the pike*** : to happen or appear ▪ He is the greatest boxer to *come down the pike* [=*come along*] in years. ▪ A chance like this doesn't *come down the pike* every day.

– compare [1]PIKE, [3]PIKE

[3]pike *noun, pl* **pikes** [*count*] : a long wooden pole with a steel point that was used in the past as a weapon — compare [1]PIKE, [2]PIKE

pi•laf /pɪˈlɑːf, ˈpiːˌlɑːf, *Brit* ˈpiːˌlæf/ *noun, pl* **pi•lafs** [*count, noncount*] : a dish that is made of seasoned rice and vegetables and often meat ▪ a vegetable *pilaf* ▪ a serving of ***rice pilaf*** — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *pilau*

pi•las•ter /pɪˈlæstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a rectangular column that is attached to a wall and that is used for decoration or support

Pi•la•tes /pəˈlɑːtiz/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a system of exercises that are often done with special equipment

pi•lau /pə'loʊ, *Brit* 'pi:ˌlaʊ/ *noun, pl* **-laus** [*count, noncount*] *chiefly Brit* : PILAF

[1]pile /'pajəl/ *noun, pl* **piles** [*count*]
1 : a group of things that are put one on top of another ▪ He put the magazines into a neat *pile*. ▪ She raked the leaves into *piles*. ▪ Take a card from the *pile*. — often + *of* ▪ a *pile of* wood ▪ a *pile of* clothes
2 *informal* **a** : a very large amount of something ▪ She had *piles* of work to do. ▪ He makes a *pile* of money. **b** : a large amount of money ▪ He made his *pile* and then retired. ▪ He made a *pile* in the stock market.
at the bottom of the pile : in a low or very unimportant position ▪ He is *at the bottom of the pile* but should get a promotion soon. ▪ The team finished the season *at the bottom of the pile*.
at the top of the pile : in a high or very important position ▪ With this promotion, he will be *at the top of the pile*. ▪ The team finished the season *at the top of the pile*.
– compare [3]PILE, [4]PILE

[2]pile *verb* **piles; piled; pil•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to put (something) in a pile ▪ The campers *piled* [=*stacked*] wood for the fire. ▪ The books were *piled* [=*heaped*] high on the table. — often + *up* ▪ The teacher neatly *piled up* the students' papers.
2 [+ *obj*] : to put a large amount of things on or in (something) — + *with* ▪ He *piled* his plate *with* potatoes. ▪ The chair was *piled with* clothes. [=there was a pile of clothes on the chair]
3 [+ *obj*] : to put (things or people) inside or on top of something in a quick and careless way — + *into* or *onto* ▪ I *piled* all my clothes *into* one suitcase. ▪ We *piled* the kids *into* the van. ▪ He *piled* potatoes *onto* his plate.
4 [*no obj*] *of a group of people, animals, etc.* : to enter or get on something (such as a building or vehicle) quickly — + *into* or *onto* ▪ The kids *piled* [=*crowded*] *into* the van. ▪ People *piled into* the theater. ▪ We *piled onto* the sofa.
pile in [*phrasal verb*] *of a group of people, animals, etc.* : to move into a place or vehicle quickly ▪ She parked the van and we all *piled in*.
pile on [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***pile on (something)*** : to put a large amount of (something) on something or someone ▪ He *piled on* the gravy. ▪ The teacher punished the class by *piling on* more work. [=the teacher punished the class by giving them more work] ▪ Her parents *piled on* the pressure to do well in school. [=her parents put a lot of pressure on her to do well in school] ✧ If you ***pile on the pounds***, you gain a lot of weight. **2** *US, informal* : to join other people in criticizing something or someone in usually an unfair way ▪ After the first few negative reviews, all the other critics started *piling on*.
pile out [*phrasal verb*] *of a group of people, animals, etc.* : to move out of a place or a vehicle quickly ▪ She parked the van, and the kids *piled out*. ▪ The crowd *piled out* of the theater.
pile up [*phrasal verb*] : to increase in amount or number to a total that is difficult to manage ▪ Work *piled up* while she was on vacation. ▪ The bills are *piling up*. ▪ Traffic *piled up* because of the accident. ▪ Snow *piled up* on the cars. — see also PILEUP

[3]pile *noun* : a soft surface of short threads on a rug, carpet, etc. [*singular*] The rug has a thick *pile*. [*noncount*] It's a yellow rug with shaggy *pile*. — compare [3]NAP — compare [1]PILE, [4]PILE

[4]pile *noun, pl* **piles** [*count*] : a long stake or pointed post that is pushed into the ground to support something (such as a building) — compare [1]PILE, [3]PILE

pile driver *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a machine used for hammering posts into the ground
2 *Brit, informal* : a very hard kick or hit ▪ He hit a *pile driver* into the net from 20 yards out.

piles *noun* [*plural*] *medical* : a swollen mass of veins located at or near the anus ▪ He has *piles*. [=*hemorrhoids*]

pile•up /'pajəlˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*]
1 : an accident in which several or many vehicles crash into each other ▪ A five-car *pileup* slowed traffic.
2 : a large amount of something that has increased gradually over a period of time ▪ a *pileup* of debt — see also *pile up* at [2]PILE

pil•fer /'pɪlfɚ/ *verb* **-fers; -fered; -fer•ing** : to steal things that are not very valuable or to steal a small amount of something [*no obj*] He was caught *pilfering*. [+ *obj*] She *pilfered* stamps and paper from work.

pil•grim /'pɪlgrəm/ *noun, pl* **-grims** [*count*]
1 : someone who travels to a holy place ▪ Thousands of Muslim *pilgrims* traveled to Mecca.
2 ***Pilgrim*** : one of the people who traveled by boat from England and created the first permanent settlement in New England at Plymouth in 1620

pil•grim•age /'pɪlgrəmɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ag•es**
1 : a journey to a holy place [*count*] He made a *pilgrimage* to Mecca. [*noncount*] The tradition of *pilgrimage* is important in Islam.
2 : a journey to a special or unusual place [*count*] The family went on a *pilgrimage* to historical battlefields. [*noncount*] The poet's grave site has become a place of *pilgrimage*.

[1]pill /'pɪl/ *noun, pl* **pills** [*count*]
1 a : a small, rounded object that you swallow and that contains medicine, vitamins, etc. ▪ She took a *pill* for her headache. ▪ The drug is available as a *pill* or a liquid. ▪ diet *pills* — see also PEP PILL, POISON PILL, SLEEPING PILL, SUGAR PILL **b** ***the pill*** : a pill that a woman takes so that she will not become pregnant : a contraceptive in pill form ▪ She is ***on the pill***. [=she is taking birth control pills regularly] — see also MORNING-AFTER PILL
2 *US, informal* : an annoying person — usually singular ▪ Don't be such a *pill*.
(a) bitter pill (to swallow) see [1]BITTER
sugar/sweeten the pill : to make an unpleasant thing less difficult to accept or deal with ▪ Faster service may *sugar the pill* of higher fees.

[2]pill *verb* **pills; pilled; pill•ing** [*no obj*] *of a sweater, fabric, etc.* : to begin to have small balls of fiber on the surface usually after having been worn or used many times ▪ Wool sweaters may *pill* after you wash them.

pil•lage /'pɪlɪʤ/ *verb* **-lag•es; -laged; -lag•ing** : to take things from (a place, such as a city or town) by force especially during a war : to loot or plunder (a place) [+ *obj*] The enemy *pillaged* the town. ▪ The town was *pillaged* and burned. [*no obj*] barbarians known for looting and *pillaging*
– **pillage** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The town suffered *pillage* and destruction. – **pil•lag•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ The museum's artwork was stolen by *pillagers*.

pil•lar /'pɪlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-lars** [*count*]
1 : a large post that helps to hold up something (such as a roof)
2 : someone who is an important member of a group — + *of* ▪ He is a *pillar of* the church/community. ▪ a *pillar of* society
3 : a basic fact, idea, or principle of something — + *of* ▪ a central *pillar of* the theory ▪ one of the five *pillars of* Islam ▪ The right to vote is a *pillar of* democracy.
4 : something that rises into the air in a tall, thin shape ▪ *Pillars* of smoke rose from the factory. ▪ a *pillar* of rock
from pillar to post *chiefly Brit* : from one place or one situation to another ▪ His book has been passed *from pillar to post*, but no one wants to publish it. ▪ He has been running *from pillar to post* his whole life.
pillar of strength : someone or something that gives support or help during difficult times ▪ My husband was my/a *pillar of strength* during my mother's illness. ▪ Religion was his *pillar of strength* after his wife died.

pill•box /'pɪlˌbɑ:ks/ *noun, pl* **-box•es** [*count*]
1 : a small box for holding pills
2 : a small, low shelter for machine guns and other weapons
3 : a small, round hat without a brim

pil•lion /'pɪljən/ *noun* [*singular*] *chiefly Brit* : a seat for a passenger on a motorcycle — often used before another noun ▪ a *pillion* passenger/seat
– **pillion** *adv, chiefly Brit* ▪ He rode *pillion*. [=on a pillion]

pil•lock /'pɪlək/ *noun, pl* **-locks** [*count*] *Brit slang* : a stupid person ▪ He was acting like a total *pillock*.

[1]pil•lo•ry /'pɪlərɪ/ *verb* **-ries; -ried; -ry•ing** [+ *obj*] : to publicly criticize (someone) in a very harsh way ▪ The press *pilloried* the judge for her decision. — often used as *(be) pilloried* ▪ The mayor *was pilloried* by the press for his comments.

[2]pillory *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] : a device that was used in the past for punishing someone in public and that consists of a wooden frame with holes in which the head and hands can be locked

pil•low /'pɪloʊ/ *noun, pl* **-lows** [*count*] : a bag filled with soft material that is used as a cushion usually for the head of a person who is lying down — see picture at BED

pil•low•case /'pɪloʊˌkeɪs/ *noun, pl* **-cas•es** [*count*] : a removable covering for a pillow — called also *pillowslip*; see picture at BED

pil•low•slip /ˈpɪloʊˌslɪp/ *noun, pl* **-slips** [*count*] : PILLOWCASE

pillow talk *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : a conversation between lovers in bed

[1]pi•lot /ˈpaɪlət/ *noun, pl* **-lots** [*count*]
1 : a person who flies an airplane, helicopter, etc. ▪ an airline *pilot* ▪ a fighter/bomber *pilot* — see also AUTOPILOT, BUSH PILOT, COPILOT, TEST PILOT
2 : a person who steers or guides a ship into and out of a port or in dangerous waters
3 : a single television show that is made as a test to see if a television series based on the show would be popular and successful
4 : PILOT LIGHT
– **pi•lot•less** /ˈpaɪlətləs/ *adj* ▪ *pilotless* aircraft/planes

[2]pilot *verb* **-lots**; **-lot•ed**; **-lot•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to fly (an airplane, spacecraft, etc.) ▪ He is learning how to *pilot* a helicopter.
2 : to steer or guide (a ship) ▪ He skillfully *piloted* the ship into port during the storm. — often used figuratively ▪ The education bill was *piloted* through the House and Senate. ▪ The hostess *piloted* us to our table. ▪ a skillful manager who has *piloted* his team to the playoffs

[3]pilot *adj, always used before a noun* : done as a test to see if a larger program, study, etc., should be done ▪ The group conducted a *pilot* program/project/study. ▪ a *pilot* episode

pilot light *noun, pl* ~ **lights** [*count*] : a small flame that is always burning in a gas stove, burner, etc., and that is used to light a larger flame

pilot officer *noun, pl* ~ **-cers** [*count*] : an officer of low rank in the British Air Force

pil•sner *or* **pil•sen•er** /ˈpɪlsnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sners** *or* **-seners** [*count, noncount*] : a light beer with a strong flavor of hops

pi•men•to /pəˈmɛntoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-tos** *or* **-to** [*count*] : PIMIENTO

pi•mien•to /pəmˈjɛntoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-tos** [*count*] : a type of small, mildly sweet pepper

[1]pimp /ˈpɪmp/ *noun, pl* **pimps** [*count*] : a man who makes money illegally by getting customers for prostitutes

[2]pimp *verb* **pimps**; **pimped**; **pimp•ing** [*no obj*] : to get customers for prostitutes : to work as a pimp — often + *for* ▪ He *pimps for* three women.

pim•ple /ˈpɪmpəl/ *noun, pl* **pimples** [*count*] : a small, red, swollen spot on the skin ▪ a teenager who has *pimples* [=*acne*]
– **pim•pled** /ˈpɪmpəld/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *pimpled* face – **pim•ply** /ˈpɪmpəli/ *adj* **pim•pli•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *pimply* skin ▪ a *pimply* teenager

[1]pin /ˈpɪn/ *noun, pl* **pins**
1 [*count*] : a thin, pointed piece of stiff wire with a rounded head at one end that is used especially for fastening pieces of cloth — see picture at SEWING; see also BOBBY PIN, CLOTHESPIN, DRAWING PIN, HAIRPIN, SAFETY PIN
2 [*count*] **a** : a thin, pointed piece of stiff wire with a decoration at one end — see also HATPIN **b** *chiefly US* : BROOCH **c** : a small usually circular object that has writing and often a picture on it and that has a pin on the back so that it can be fastened to clothing, bags, etc. ▪ He handed out *pins* with the peace sign on them. ▪ political campaign *pins*
3 [*count*] **a** : a thin piece of wood, metal, or plastic that is used for holding things together or for hanging one thing from another **b** : a long, thin piece of metal that is used to fasten together the ends of broken bone
4 [*count*] *Brit* : one of the metal pieces that stick out from an electric plug and fit into a socket : PRONG ▪ a three-*pin* plug
5 [*count*] : a thin piece of metal that is removed to trigger the explosion of a small bomb (called a grenade) ▪ pull the *pin*
6 [*count*] *golf* : a long stick with a flag at the top that shows where the hole is on a green ▪ The ball landed near the *pin*.
7 [*count*] *bowling* : one of the usually white standing pieces that are knocked down with the ball — see also TENPIN
8 ***pins*** [*plural*] *informal* : the legs of a person or animal ▪ They were knocked right off their *pins* by the heavy winds.
you could hear a pin drop — used to say that it was so quiet that the smallest noise could be heard ▪ After he announced that he was leaving, *you could hear a pin drop* in the office.

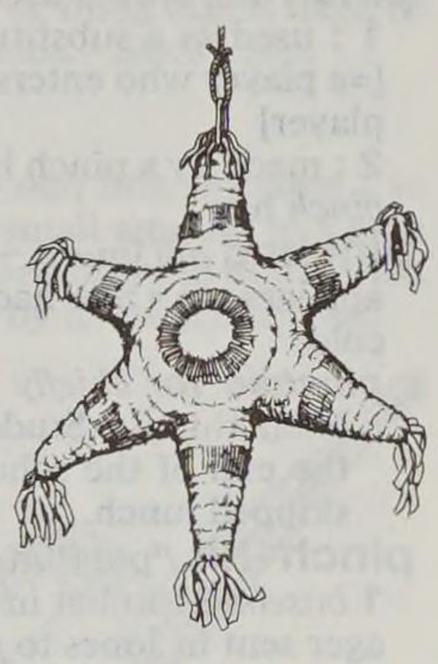
[2]pin *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **pins**; **pinned**; **pin•ning** [+ *obj*]
1 : to fasten or attach (something) with a pin ▪ She *pinned* a rose to her dress. ▪ The general *pinned* the medal on the soldier. ▪ She *pinned* up/back her hair. ▪ He *pinned* a sign on the wall.
2 : to prevent or stop (someone or something) from moving by holding or pressing firmly against something ▪ The passengers were *pinned* under the wreckage. ▪ The guards *pinned* his arms to his sides. ▪ She was *pinned* against the side of the car. ▪ The police officers *pinned* the suspect down (on the ground). — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The soldiers were *pinned* down by enemy fire. [=the soldiers were unable to move because they were being shot at by the enemy]
pin down [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***pin (someone) down*** : to cause or force (someone) to make a definite statement or decision about something ▪ Reporters tried to *pin* him *down* on the specific changes he wants to make to the tax laws. ▪ He talked in a general way, but they couldn't *pin* him *down* to specifics. **2** ***pin down (something)*** *or* ***pin (something) down*** : to find out (something) with certainty ▪ Can you *pin down* when the change occurred? ▪ I'm trying to *pin down* [=*identify*] the source of the problem.
pin on [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***pin (something) on (someone)*** : to say that (something) was done or caused by (someone) ▪ The police *pinned* the robbery *on* the night watchman. ▪ He always manages to *pin* [=*fasten*] the blame *on* someone else. **2** ***pin (all) your hopes on (something)*** : to hope very much that (something) will help you or allow you to succeed ▪ Many cancer patients are *pinning their hopes on* a new drug that is now being developed. ▪ You shouldn't *pin all your hopes on* getting the job.

PIN /ˈpɪn/ *abbr* personal identification number ✧ A personal identification number is a secret number that is used to get money from a bank account through a machine, to get personal information on a Web site, etc.

pi•ña co•la•da /ˈpiːnjəkoʊˈlɑːdə/ *noun, pl* ~ **-das** [*count*] : a drink that is made of rum, coconut juice, and pineapple juice mixed with ice

pin•a•fore /ˈpɪnəˌfoɚ/ *noun, pl* **-fores** [*count*] : [2]JUMPER 1

pi•ña•ta *or* **pi•na•ta** /pinˈjɑːtə/ *noun, pl* **-tas** [*count*] : a decorated container filled with candies, fruits, and gifts that is hung up at parties or celebrations and hit with a stick by children until it is broken and the things inside it fall out


piñata

pin•ball /ˈpɪnˌbɑːl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a game played on a special machine in which a ball scores points by hitting targets while rolling down a slanting surface and the player tries to control the ball with a set of levers ▪ We spent hours playing *pinball*. ▪ a *pinball* machine

pince–nez /ˌpæns'neɪ/ *noun, pl* **pince–nez** /ˌpæns'neɪz/ [*count*] : a pair of old-fashioned eyeglasses that do not have pieces that fit over the ears and that are worn by being clipped onto the nose

pin•cer /ˈpɪnsɚ/ *noun, pl* **-cers**
1 ***pincers*** [*plural*] : a small tool that is used for holding or gripping small objects ▪ He used (a pair of) *pincers* to remove the nail.
2 [*count*] : a claw of a lobster or crab and some insects

pincer movement *noun, pl* ~ **-ments** [*count*] : a military attack by two groups of soldiers that approach an enemy position from two different directions at the same time

[1]pinch /ˈpɪnʧ/ *verb* **pinch•es**; **pinched**; **pinch•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to squeeze (someone's skin) between your thumb and finger often in a painful way ▪ My little brother is always trying to *pinch* me. ▪ He *pinched* her cheeks and told her how cute she was. — often used figuratively ▪ It was all so beautiful ***I had to pinch myself*** [=I had to remind myself that it was real] to be sure I wasn't dreaming. ▪ ***Pinch me.*** [=I can't believe this is happening] **b** : to squeeze or press (something) together with your thumb and finger ▪ *Pinch* together the edges of the dough. ▪ He *pinched* the top of his nose to stop the bleeding and leaned forward. **c** : to remove (part of a plant) by squeezing with your thumb and finger ▪ He *pinched* off/out the top of the shoots. ▪ She *pinched* back the new growth.
2 : to press against or squeeze (a part of the body) in a painful way [+ *obj*] These new shoes are *pinching* my toes. ▪ I *pinched* my fingers in the door. ▪ He had a ***pinched nerve*** [=a nerve pressed against a bone in the neck in a painful way] in

his neck. [*no obj*] These shoes *pinch*.

3 [*no obj*] : to be very careful about spending money : to spend as little money as possible ▪ By ***pinching and scraping***, she managed to save enough money to buy a new car. — see also PINCH PENNIES (below)

4 [+ *obj*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : to steal (something) ▪ Someone *pinched* her purse. ▪ The material was *pinched* [=*lifted*] from another book.

5 [+ *obj*] *informal* + *old-fashioned* : to arrest (someone) — often + *for* ▪ He was *pinched for* speeding.

6 [+ *obj*] *chiefly US, informal* **a** : to cause financial problems for (someone or something) ▪ Many people are now being/feeling *pinched* [=*squeezed*] by high gasoline prices. ▪ The recession is ***pinching the pocketbooks*** of many people. **b** : to reduce or limit (something) in a way that causes problems ▪ The trade embargo drove up prices and *pinched* supplies.

pinch pennies *informal* : to be very careful about spending money : to spend as little money as possible ▪ He *pinched pennies* to live on his small paycheck.

²pinch *noun, pl* **pinches** [*count*]

1 : the act of pinching someone or something — usually singular ▪ He gave me a *pinch* on the cheek. [=he pinched my cheek]

2 : the amount of something that can be held between your finger and thumb — often + *of* ▪ Add a *pinch of* salt to the soup. ▪ He took a *pinch of* snuff.

feel the pinch : to experience the problems caused by not having enough money or by paying higher costs ▪ The family began to *feel the pinch* after the mother lost her job. ▪ We are starting to *feel the pinch* of high fuel costs.

in a pinch (*US*) *or Brit* ***at a pinch*** : in a bad situation when help is needed ▪ I can help out *in a pinch* if you need a babysitter. ▪ *In a pinch*, you can substitute another ingredient in the recipe. ▪ She can be resourceful *in a pinch*. [=in an emergency]

take (something) with a pinch of salt see ¹SALT

³pinch *adj, always used before a noun, US, baseball*

1 : used as a substitute for another player ▪ a *pinch* runner [=a player who enters a game as a runner in place of another player]

2 : made by a pinch hitter ▪ A *pinch* homer won the game. ▪ a *pinch* hit

pinched *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a thin and unhealthy appearance ▪ She had *pinched* cheeks. ▪ a face *pinched* with cold

pinched for *chiefly US, informal* : not having enough of (something) ▪ Students are especially *pinched for* time at the end of the school year. ▪ *Pinched for* cash/money, he skipped lunch.

pinch–hit /ˈpɪnʧˈhɪt/ *verb* **-hits**; **-hit**; **-hit·ting** [*no obj*] *US*

1 *baseball* : to bat in the place of another player ▪ The manager sent in Jones to *pinch-hit* for the pitcher.

2 *informal* : to act or serve in place of another person : SUBSTITUTE ▪ The President wasn't able to attend the ceremony, so the Vice President was there to *pinch-hit* for him.

– **pinch hitter** *noun, pl* ~ **-ters** [*count*]

pin·cush·ion /ˈpɪnˌkʊʃən/ *noun, pl* **-ions** [*count*] : a small bag filled with a soft material that pins and needles can be pushed into when they are not being used — see picture at SEWING

¹pine /ˈpaɪn/ *noun, pl* **pines** *or* **pine**

1 [*count*] : a tree that has long, thin needles instead of leaves and that stays green throughout the year — called also *pine tree*

2 [*noncount*] : the wood of a pine tree that is often used to make furniture

– **pine** *adj* ▪ *pine* trees/needles/forests/floors ▪ The box is *pine*. – **pin·ey** *also* **piny** /ˈpaɪni/ *adj, chiefly US* ▪ a *piney* aroma ▪ a *piney* forest [=a forest with many pine trees]

²pine *verb* **pines**; **pined**; **pin·ing** [*no obj*] : to become thin and weak because of sadness or loss — usually + *away* ▪ Since his wife left him, he spends his days alone, *pining away*.

synonyms see YEARN

pine after [*phrasal verb*] ***pine after (someone or something)*** *US* : to want or desire (someone or something) very much ▪ teenage girls *pining after* rock stars

pine for [*phrasal verb*] ***pine for (someone or something)*** : to feel very sad because you want (something) or because you are not with (someone) ▪ She was *pining for* the old days. ▪ He's *pining for* his college sweetheart. ▪ At this time of year, most people are *pining for* [=longing for] the return of spring.

pine·ap·ple /ˈpaɪˌnæpəl/ *noun, pl* **-apples** [*count, noncount*] : a large fruit that grows on a tropical tree and that has thick skin and very sweet, juicy, yellow flesh ▪ a can of chopped *pineapple* ▪ *pineapple* juice — see color picture on page C5

pine·cone /ˈpaɪnˌkoʊn/ *noun, pl* **-cones** [*count*] : a hard and dry part that is the fruit of a pine tree and contains many seeds — see color picture on page C6



pinecone

pine nut *noun, pl* ~ **nuts** [*count*] : the seed of some pine trees that is used as food — usually plural ▪ The recipe calls for ¼ cup of *pine nuts*. — called also (*Brit*) *pine kernel*

ping /ˈpɪŋ/ *verb* **pings**; **pinged**; **ping·ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to make the high, sharp sound of a small, hard object bouncing off metal or glass ▪ The engine in my car keeps *pinging*. [=(*Brit*) *pinking*]

2 : to bounce off something with a sharp, high sound ▪ Pebbles *pinged* off the car.

– **ping** *noun, pl* **pings** [*count*]

Ping–Pong /ˈpɪŋˌpɑːŋ/ *trademark* — used for table tennis

pin·head /ˈpɪnˌhɛd/ *noun, pl* **-heads** [*count*]

1 : the rounded end of a pin ▪ The insect is the size of a *pinhead*.

2 *US, informal* : a stupid or foolish person ▪ Her boss is a real *pinhead*.

pin·head·ed /ˈpɪnˌhɛdəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *US, informal* : stupid or foolish ▪ her *pinheaded* boss/decision

pin·hole /ˈpɪnˌhoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-holes** [*count*] : a very small hole made by a pin or in some other way ▪ The water was leaking through a *pinhole* in the pipe. ▪ *pinhole* leaks

¹pin·ion /ˈpɪnjən/ *verb* **-ions**; **-ioned**; **-ion·ing** [+ *obj*] : to tie up (someone's arms or legs) very tightly ▪ They *pinioned* his arms behind his back.

²pinion *noun, pl* **-ions** [*count*] *technical* : a small gear in a machine ▪ a car with rack and *pinion* steering

¹pink /ˈpɪŋk/ *noun, pl* **pinks**

1 [*count, noncount*] : a pale red color : a color that is a mixture of red and white — see color picture on page C3; see also SHOCKING PINK

2 [*count*] : a plant with narrow leaves and colorful flowers

in the pink *informal* + *old-fashioned* : in very good health ▪ Regular exercise helped to keep her *in the pink* (of good health).

– **pink·ish** /ˈpɪŋkɪʃ/ *adj* ▪ a *pinkish* rose/color – **pink·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

²pink *adj* : of the color pink ▪ *pink* roses ▪ Her dress is pale/salmon *pink*.

tickled pink see TICKLE

³pink *verb* **pinks**; **pinked**; **pink·ing** [*no obj*] *Brit* : PING 1

pink–collar *adj, chiefly US* : traditionally held by women ▪ *pink-collar* jobs — compare BLUE-COLLAR, WHITE-COLLAR

pink·eye /ˈpɪŋkˌaɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US, medical* : CONJUNCTIVITIS

pin·kie *or* **pin·ky** /ˈpɪŋki/ *noun, pl* **-kies** [*count*] *chiefly US* + *Scotland, informal* : LITTLE FINGER ▪ She cut her left *pinkie*. ▪ a *pinkie* ring

pinking shears *noun* [*plural*] : scissors with special blades that make an edge with many sharp points when they cut cloth

pinko /ˈpɪŋkoʊ/ *noun, pl* **pink·os** [*count*] *informal*

1 *US, disapproving* : a person who is a communist or socialist or who supports the ideas of communists and socialists

2 *Brit* : a person whose political or economic opinions are slightly liberal or radical

pink slip *noun, pl* ~ **slips** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* : a notice that is given to a worker by an employer saying that the worker's job is ending ▪ Thousands of factory workers have been ***given the pink slip*** [=have been laid off; have lost their jobs] in recent months. = Thousands of workers have ***gotten the pink slip***.

– **pink–slip** *verb* **-slips**; **-slipped**; **-slip·ping** [+ *obj*] — usually used as *(be/get) pink-slipped* ▪ Thousands of factory workers have *been/gotten pink-slipped* in recent months.

pin money *noun* [*noncount*] *old-fashioned* : money that is used for small expenses ▪ She had a babysitting job to earn *pin money*.

pin·na·cle /ˈpɪnɪkəl/ *noun, pl* **-na·cles** [*count*]

1 : a high mountain top ▪ a lofty *pinnacle*

2 : the best or most important part of something : the point

of greatest success or achievement — usually singular ▪ His career reached its *pinnacle* when he won the championship. — often + *of* ▪ Winning the championship was the *pinnacle of* his career. ▪ She stands at the *pinnacle of* the fashion industry. ▪ She has achieved/reached the *pinnacle of* success.

3 : a tower on the roof of a building that comes to a narrow point at the top

pin•ny /ˈpɪni/ *noun, pl* **-nies** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : PINAFORE

pi•noch•le /ˈpiːˌnʌkəl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a card game played with a special deck of 48 cards

Pinot Blanc /ˈpiːnoʊˈblɑːŋk/ *noun, pl* ~ **Blancs** [*count, noncount*] : a dry white wine originally from France

Pinot Gri•gio /ˈpiːnoʊˈgriːʤijoʊ/ *noun, pl* ~ **-gios** [*count, noncount*] : a dry white wine originally from Italy

Pinot Noir /ˈpiːnoʊˈnwɑɚ/ *noun, pl* ~ **Noirs** [*count, noncount*] : a dry red wine originally from France

[1]pin•point /ˈpɪnˌpoɪnt/ *noun, pl* **-points** [*count*] : a very small point or dot — often + *of* ▪ a *pinpoint of* light

[2]pinpoint *adj, always used before a noun* : very exact or precise ▪ The pitcher showed *pinpoint* control of his fastball. ▪ *pinpoint* accuracy/precision

[3]pinpoint *verb* **-points**; **-point•ed**; **-point•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to find out (something) with certainty ▪ They were finally able to *pinpoint* the cause of the fire.

2 : to find or locate the exact position of (something) ▪ He *pinpointed* the city on the map. ▪ Rescuers were able to *pinpoint* where the lost girl was. ▪ The military uses computer imaging to *pinpoint* targets.

pin•prick /ˈpɪnˌprɪk/ *noun, pl* **-pricks** [*count*]

1 : a small hole that is made by a pin or other sharp tool : PINHOLE

2 : a very small point or dot — often + *of* ▪ a *pinprick* [=*pinpoint*] *of* light

3 : a slight but sharp pain caused by a pin or needle ▪ He felt a *pinprick* in his leg. — often used figuratively ▪ I felt a *pinprick* of jealousy when I saw them together.

pins and needles *noun* [*noncount*] : the unpleasant tingling feeling in a part of your body (such as your arm or leg) as it becomes numb or recovers from being numb

on pins and needles *US* : feeling very nervous and unsure about what will happen ▪ Everyone was *on pins and needles* waiting to hear the jury's verdict.

pin•stripe /ˈpɪnˌstraɪp/ *noun, pl* **-stripes**

1 [*count*] : a thin vertical stripe on cloth ▪ a dark suit with white *pinstripes* — often used before another noun ▪ a *pinstripe* pattern/shirt/suit — see color picture on page C12

2 *pinstripes* [*plural*] : a suit with pinstripes ▪ a man dressed in *pinstripes*

– **pin–striped** /ˈpɪnˌstraɪpt/ *adj* ▪ a *pin-striped* suit

pint /ˈpaɪnt/ *noun, pl* **pints** [*count*]

1 *US* : a unit for measuring liquids that is equal to 0.473 liters

2 *Brit* : a unit for measuring liquids that is equal to 0.568 liters

3 a : a container that holds a pint of something ▪ The ice cream comes in *pints*. **b** *chiefly Brit* : a pint of beer ▪ I'd like another *pint*, please. ▪ We'll all ***go for a pint*** after work.

pin•to /ˈpɪntoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-tos** [*count*] *US* : a horse or pony that has patches of white and another color

pinto bean *noun, pl* ~ **beans** [*count*] : a type of small bean that is grown for food

pint–sized /ˈpaɪntˌsaɪzd/ *or* **pint–size** /ˈpaɪntˌsaɪz/ *adj, informal* : very small ▪ *pint-sized* children ▪ a *pint-sized* actress ▪ The restaurant serves *pint-sized* portions.

pin•up /ˈpɪnˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*]

1 : a photograph of an attractive person (such as an actress or model) that is hung or pinned on a wall

2 : a person who appears in or is attractive enough to appear in a pinup ▪ He is dating a glamorous *pinup*.

– **pinup** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *pinup* calendar

pin•wheel /ˈpɪnˌwiːl/ *noun, pl* **-wheels** [*count*] *US*

1 : a toy that has a set of thin blades that are arranged like a fan on the end of a stick and that spin like a wheel when air is blown on them — called also (*Brit*) *windmill*

2 : a type of firework that spins like a wheel — called also (*Brit*) *Catherine wheel*

[1]pi•o•neer /ˌpajəˈniɚ/ *noun, pl* **-neers** [*count*]

1 : a person who helps create or develop new ideas, methods, etc. — often + *in* ▪ They were *pioneers in* the field of American medicine. ▪ She was a *pioneer in* the development of new cancer treatments. — often + *of* ▪ a *pioneer of* digital technology

2 : someone who is one of the first people to move to and live in a new area ▪ the *pioneers* who settled in the American West in the 19th century

– **pioneer** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *pioneer* surgeons ▪ the *pioneer* days of the old West

[2]pioneer *verb* **-neers**; **-neered**; **-neer•ing** : to help create or develop (new ideas, methods, etc.) : to be a pioneer in the development of (something) [+ *obj*] a painter who *pioneered* a new art form ▪ The new method of cancer treatment was *pioneered* by an international team of researchers. ▪ He helped *pioneer* a new route to the West. [*no obj*] He *pioneered* in the development of airplanes.

pioneering *adj* : using new and better ideas for the first time ▪ *pioneering* studies ▪ a *pioneering* experiment ▪ He played a *pioneering* role in the development of online business models.

pi•ous /ˈpajəs/ *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : deeply religious : devoted to a particular religion ▪ *pious* [=*devout*] churchgoing people ▪ They lived a quiet, *pious* life.

2 *disapproving* : falsely appearing to be good or moral ▪ I'm tired of hearing politicians making *pious* pronouncements about their devotion to the people.

pious hope/wish : something that is hoped for but will probably not happen ▪ His speech contained no practical solutions, just the *pious hope* that the war would end soon.

– **pi•ous•ly** *adv*

[1]pip /ˈpɪp/ *noun, pl* **pips** [*count*] *US*

1 : one of the dots on dice or dominoes that show their value

2 : a design on a playing card that shows the suit and value

– compare [2]PIP

[2]pip *noun, pl* **pips** [*count*]

1 *chiefly Brit* : a small, hard seed of some fruits ▪ orange/apple *pips* [=(*US*) *seeds*]

2 *informal + old-fashioned* : a person or thing that is liked or admired very much ▪ It's a *pip* of an idea. ▪ She's a *pip*!

3 *Brit* : a short, high sound : BEEP

– compare [1]PIP

[3]pip *verb* **pips**; **pipped**; **pip•ping** [+ *obj*] *Brit, informal* : to defeat (someone or something) by a small amount in a race or other competition ▪ The horse *pipped* his rival at the wire. ▪ The team was ***pipped at/to the post*** by its longtime rival.

[1]pipe /ˈpaɪp/ *noun, pl* **pipes**

1 [*count*] : a long, hollow tube for carrying water, steam, gas, etc. ▪ water/sewer *pipes* ▪ copper/lead *pipes* — see picture at PLUMBING; see also DRAINPIPE, HOSEPIPE, STOVEPIPE, TAILPIPE, WINDPIPE

2 [*count*] : a tube with a small bowl at one end that is used for smoking tobacco ▪ He smokes a *pipe*. ▪ He lit the *pipe*. — see also PEACE PIPE, WATER PIPE



pipe

3 a [*count*] : a musical instrument that is in the shape of a tube, has holes along the top, and is played by blowing — see also PANPIPE **b** [*count*] : any one of the large tubes of an organ that produce sound when air goes through them **c *pipes*** [*plural*] : BAGPIPE **d *pipes*** [*plural*] *US, informal* : a singer's voice ▪ He has the *pipes* to sing on Broadway. ▪ a singer with a fine set of *pipes*

put/stick that in your pipe and smoke it *informal* — used to tell someone that they must accept what you say is true even though they might not like it or agree with you ▪ "It's a stupid movie." "Oh really? Well it was just nominated for an Oscar, so *put/stick that in your pipe and smoke it*!"

[2]pipe *verb* **pipes**; **piped**; **pip•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to carry or move (something, such as water or oil) in a pipe — often used as *(be) piped* ▪ Water *is piped* into the cabin from an underground stream.

2 [+ *obj*] : to send (music or recorded sound) from one place to another through an electrical connection — usually used as *(be) piped* ▪ Music *is piped* into every store in the mall.

3 a [*no obj*] : to play a pipe or the bagpipes ▪ The pipers *piped* while the drummers drummed. **b** [+ *obj*] : to play (a tune or song) on a pipe or the bagpipes ▪ The musician *piped* a tune.

4 [+ *obj*] : to decorate a cake, cookie, etc., with a line of (something, such as cream or frosting) by using a special bag or tube ▪ I *piped* the frosting around the edge of the cake.

pipe down [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to become quiet : to stop talking ▪ The teacher told the students to *pipe down*. [=*quiet down*]

pipe up [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to start talking : to say something ▪ After being quiet for almost an hour, he suddenly *piped up* [=*spoke up*] to ask where we were going.

pipe cleaner *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a piece of wire that is covered with soft cloth and used to clean the inside of a tobacco pipe

pipe dream *noun, pl* ~ **dreams** [*count*] : a hope, wish, or dream that is impossible to achieve or not practical ▪ His plan for starting his own business was just a *pipe dream*.

pipe fitter *noun, pl* ~ **-ters** [*count*] : a person whose job is to install and repair pipes that carry water, gas, etc.

pipe•line /ˈpaɪpˌlaɪn/ *noun, pl* **-lines**

1 [*count*] : a line of connected pipes that are used for carrying liquids and gases over a long distance ▪ a natural gas *pipeline* — sometimes used figuratively ▪ a weapons *pipeline* ▪ a news *pipeline* from the mayor's office

2 ***the pipeline*** : the system for developing and producing something ▪ the next wave of products to ***come down the pipeline*** [=to be produced] ▪ Newer treatments for the disease are ***in the pipeline*** [=are being developed] ▪ He's a film producer with several projects *in the pipeline*. [=in the works]

pipe organ *noun, pl* ~ **-gans** [*count*] : ORGAN 2a

pip•er /ˈpaɪpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who plays a pipe or the bagpipes

pay the piper *informal* **1** : to pay the cost of something ▪ We have to do what they say because they're the ones who are *paying the piper*. ▪ You know what they say: ***he who pays the piper calls the tune*** [=the person who pays for something controls how it is done] **2** *chiefly US* : to pay money or suffer in some way because of something you have done ▪ They have mismanaged the company for years, and now they have to *pay the piper*.

pi•pette /paɪˈpɛt, *Brit* pɪˈpɛt/ *noun, pl* **-pettes** [*count*] *technical* : a narrow glass tube used for measuring liquid or for moving small amounts of liquid from one place to another

[1]pip•ing /ˈpaɪpɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : pipes that carry water, gas, etc. ▪ There's a problem with the *piping* in the building. ▪ kitchen/bathroom *piping*

2 : the music of a pipe or pipes

3 : a narrow tube of cloth that is used to decorate clothes, furniture, etc. ▪ a sofa trimmed with blue *piping* ▪ a uniform with yellow *piping* down the pants

[2]piping *adj* : having a high-pitched sound or tone ▪ the *piping* voices of small children

piping hot *adj, of food or drink* : very hot ▪ The coffee was served *piping hot*. ▪ *piping hot* soup

pip•squeak /ˈpɪpˌskwi:k/ *noun, pl* **-squeaks** [*count*] *informal* : a person who is very small or unimportant ▪ He's just a *pipsqueak* compared to his teammates.

pi•quant /ˈpi:kənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal*

1 : having a pleasant, spicy taste ▪ *piquant* vegetables seasoned with pepper ▪ He served the fish with a *piquant* sauce.

2 : interesting and exciting ▪ a *piquant* bit of gossip

– **pi•quan•cy** /ˈpi:kənsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The pepper added *piquancy* to the sauce. – **pi•quant•ly** *adv*

[1]pique /ˈpi:k/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : a sudden feeling of annoyance or anger when someone has offended you ▪ After a moment of *pique*, the senator responded calmly to his accusers. ▪ He slammed the door ***in a fit of pique***.

[2]pique *verb* **piques**; **piqued**; **piqu•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *chiefly US* : to cause (curiosity or interest) ▪ The package *piqued* [=*sparked, aroused*] my curiosity. ▪ Brightly colored objects *pique* a baby's interest.

2 *chiefly Brit* : to make (someone) annoyed or angry — usually used as *(be) piqued* ▪ I *was piqued* by his rudeness.

pi•ra•cy /ˈpaɪrəsi/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the act of attacking and stealing from a ship at sea ▪ *piracy* on the high seas

2 a : the act of illegally copying someone's product or invention without permission ▪ software/music/video *piracy* **b** : the act of illegally making television or radio broadcasts ▪ radio *piracy*

pi•ra•nha /pəˈrɑ:nə/ *noun, pl* **-nhas** [*count*] : a small South American fish that has sharp teeth and that eats the flesh of animals — see color picture on page C8

[1]pi•rate /ˈpaɪrət/ *noun, pl* **-rates** [*count*]

1 : someone who attacks and steals from a ship at sea ▪ the famous *pirate* Jean Lafitte — often used before another noun ▪ a *pirate* ship/costume/captain/movie

2 a : someone who illegally copies a product or invention without permission ▪ A software *pirate* made bootleg copies of the computer program. — often used before another noun ▪ *pirate* videotapes/CDs/software ▪ *pirate* translations **b** : a person or organization that illegally makes television or radio broadcasts — usually used before another noun ▪ *pirate* radio

– **pi•rat•i•cal** /pəˈrætɪkəl/ *adj* ▪ *piratical* activity

[2]pirate *verb* **-rates**; **-rat•ed**; **-rat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to illegally copy (something) without permission ▪ He was accused of *pirating* their invention.

– **pirated** *adj* ▪ *pirated* videotapes/software/recordings

pir•ou•ette /ˌpirəˈwɛt/ *noun, pl* **-ettes** [*count*] : a full turn on the front of one foot in ballet ▪ the elegant *pirouettes* of the prima ballerina

– **pirouette** *verb* **-ettes**; **-ett•ed**; **-ett•ing** [*no obj*] ▪ Twelve dancers *pirouetted* across the stage.

Pi•sces /ˈpaɪˌsi:z/ *noun, pl* **Pisces**

1 [*noncount*] : the 12th sign of the zodiac that comes between Aquarius and Aries and is symbolized by a pair of fish — see picture at ZODIAC

2 [*count*] : a person born under the sign of Pisces : a person born between February 19 and March 20 ▪ He was born on March first, so he's a *Pisces*.

[1]piss /ˈpɪs/ *verb* **piss•es**; **pissed**; **piss•ing** *informal + impolite*

1 [*no obj*] : URINATE ▪ I have to *piss*.

2 [+ *obj*] : to urinate in or on (something) ▪ He *pissed* [=*wet*] the bed. ▪ I was so scared I almost *pissed* my pants.

not have a pot to piss in *informal + impolite* : to have no money or possessions ▪ I had just moved to the city and *didn't have a pot to piss in*.

piss about/around [*phrasal verb*] *Brit, informal + impolite* **1** : to spend time doing things that are not useful or serious : to waste time ▪ She didn't come all this way just to *piss about*. ▪ Don't *piss around* with your health—see a doctor! ▪ It's time we stopped *pissing about* [=*fooling around*] and got busy. **2** ***piss (someone) about/around*** : to be unfair or dishonest with (someone) ▪ The sales clerk is *pissing* us *around* [=(*US*) *jerking us around*]—he keeps saying he'll help us, but we've been waiting for 20 minutes!

piss and moan *US, informal + impolite* : to complain in a constant or annoying way ▪ He's always *pissing and moaning* about having to pay taxes.

piss away [*phrasal verb*] ***piss (something) away*** *or* ***piss away (something)*** *US, informal + impolite* : to foolishly waste (something, such as money, talent, opportunities, etc.) ▪ He *pissed* a fortune *away* on gambling and drinking.

piss down [*phrasal verb*] *Brit, informal + impolite* : to rain hard ▪ Let's go, mate. It's going to *piss down* any minute.

piss like a racehorse *US, informal + impolite* : to urinate a large amount

piss off [*phrasal verb*] **1** *Brit, informal + impolite* : to go away ▪ Why don't you *piss off*? [=(*US*) *buzz off*] **2** ***piss (someone) off*** *or* ***piss off (someone)*** *informal + impolite* : to make (someone) very angry or annoyed ▪ Her superior attitude really *pisses* me *off*.

piss yourself (laughing) *Brit, informal + impolite* : to laugh very hard ▪ We *pissed ourselves laughing* during the movie.

[2]piss *noun, informal + impolite*

1 [*noncount*] : URINE

2 [*singular*] : an act of urinating ▪ He says he has to ***take a piss***. = (*Brit*) He says he has to ***have a piss***.

on the piss *Brit, informal + impolite* : drinking heavily at a pub or bar ▪ He's had a big night out *on the piss*.

piss and vinegar *US, informal + impolite* : strength and energy ▪ We were full of *piss and vinegar* back then.

take the piss out of *Brit, informal + impolite* : to make fun of or laugh at (someone or something) ▪ He *took the piss out of* me about my tattoo.

pissed /ˈpɪst/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 *or* ***pissed off*** *chiefly US, informal + impolite* : very angry or annoyed at someone ▪ She is *pissed* at her boyfriend for not calling her. ▪ I got really *pissed* when she said that! ▪ Aren't you *pissed off* [=*ticked off*] that your team lost?

2 *Brit slang* : very drunk or intoxicated ▪ They went to the pub and got completely *pissed*.

piss–poor /ˈpɪsˌpuɚ/ *adj, US, informal + impolite* : very bad : extremely poor ▪ He did a *piss-poor* job.

pis•ta•chio /pəˈstæʃijoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-chios** [*count*] : a small

green nut — often used before another noun ▪ *pistachio* ice cream — see picture at NUT

piste /ˈpiːst/ *noun, pl* **pistes** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a downhill ski trail

pis•til /ˈpɪstl̩/ *noun, pl* **-tils** [*count*] *botany* : the long central part of a flower that extends from the ovary — see picture at FLOWER

pis•tol /ˈpɪstl̩/ *noun, pl* **-tols** [*count*]
1 : a small gun made to be aimed and fired with one hand — see picture at GUN; see also WATER PISTOL
2 *US, informal* : a person who has a lot of energy and spirit — usually singular ▪ That guy's a real *pistol*.

pistol–whip *verb* **-whips**; **-whipped**; **-whip•ping** [+ *obj*] : to hit (someone) many times with a pistol ▪ He was *pistol-whipped* to the ground by a prison guard.

pis•ton /ˈpɪstən/ *noun, pl* **-tons** [*count*] : a part of an engine that moves up and down inside a tube and that causes other parts of the engine to move — see picture at ENGINE

[1]pit /ˈpɪt/ *noun, pl* **pits**
1 [*count*] : a hole in the ground usually made by digging ▪ The explorers discovered a burial *pit* containing human bones. ▪ The impact of the meteor created a huge *pit*. [=*crater*] ▪ The hikers dug a *pit* for the fire.
2 [*count*] **a** : a large, deep hole in the ground from which stones or minerals are dug out ▪ a gravel/chalk/tar *pit* — see also SANDPIT **b** *chiefly Brit* : a coal mine
3 [*count*] : something that uses up or holds a very large amount of money, food, information, etc. ▪ My house is such a ***money pit***—I'm always paying for repairs on it! ▪ My brother's stomach is a ***bottomless pit*** [=my brother eats constantly] ▪ The Internet is a *bottomless pit* of information. [=the Internet contains a great amount of information]
4 [*count*] : an area separated from and often placed below the areas next to it: such as **a** : an outdoor area where food is cooked ▪ a barbecue *pit* **b** *US* : an area where particular investments are traded ▪ the oil futures *pit* of the New York Mercantile Exchange **c** : an area where animals are brought to fight **d** : the space in a theater where an orchestra plays ▪ The conductor walked down into the (orchestra) *pit* and stood at the podium. **e** : an area of dirt or grass used for playing certain games ▪ a horseshoe *pit* **f** : MOSH PIT **g** : an area beside a racetrack used for servicing cars during a race — usually plural ▪ The driver stopped in the *pits* to refuel. — see also PIT STOP
5 [*count*] : a small hole or dent on the surface of something ▪ The car's door was covered with *pits* and scratches. ▪ The boy had *pits* [=*pockmarks*] on his face.
6 a [*count*] : a very bad or unpleasant place or situation — usually + *of* ▪ The downtown area is a *pit of* depression/despair/hopelessness. **b** ***the pits*** *informal* : something that is very bad or unpleasant ▪ You caught the flu on your birthday? That's *the pits*! [=that is awful] ▪ This rainy weather is *the* absolute *pits*. [=I hate this rainy weather] ▪ I usually like her movies, but her most recent one is really *the pits*! [=her most recent one is terrible]
7 [*count*] *informal* : ARMPIT
the pit of your/the stomach : the part of a person's stomach where strong feelings of nervousness, excitement, etc., can be felt ▪ She felt a flutter in *the pit of her stomach* when he walked through the door.
– compare [3]PIT

[2]pit *verb* **pits**; **pit•ted**; **pit•ting**
1 [+ *obj*] : to make small holes or dents in (something) ▪ A hailstorm badly *pitted* the car's roof. — see also PITTED 2
2 [*no obj*] *car racing* : to make a pit stop ▪ The driver was forced to *pit* because of engine problems.
pit against [*phrasal verb*] ***pit (someone or something) against (someone or something)*** : to cause (someone or something) to fight or compete against (another person or thing) ▪ Tonight's game will *pit* Smith *against* Johnson for the championship. [=Smith will be playing against Johnson for the championship in tonight's game] ▪ The team will be *pitted against* [=will be playing against] last year's champion in the finals. ▪ The game requires you to ***pit your wits against*** the computer. [=to use your wits to try to defeat the computer]
– compare [4]PIT

[3]pit *noun, pl* **pits** [*count*] *US* : the hard middle part of a fruit : STONE ▪ peach/cherry/olive *pits* — see color picture on page C5 — compare [1]PIT

[4]pit *verb* **pits**; **pit•ted**; **pit•ting** [+ *obj*] *chiefly US* : to remove the pit from (a piece of fruit) ▪ He *pitted* the plum and cut it into pieces. — see also PITTED 1 — compare [2]PIT

pi•ta (*US*) *or Brit* **pit•ta** /ˈpiːtə, *Brit* ˈpɪtə/ *noun, pl* **-tas** [*count, noncount*] : a type of thin, flat bread that can be separated to form a pocket for holding food — called also (*US*) *pita bread*, (*Brit*) *pitta bread*; see picture at BAKING

pit–a–pat /ˌpɪtɪˈpæt/ *noun* [*singular*] : PITTER-PATTER — often + *of* ▪ the *pit-a-pat of* the raindrops on the roof
– **pit–a–pat** *adv* ▪ Her heart went *pit-a-pat* [=her heart beat rapidly with excitement] when he walked into the room.

pit boss *noun, pl* ~ **bosses** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a person whose job is to supervise the gambling that is done in a casino

pit bull *noun, pl* ~ **bulls** [*count*] : a type of dog that is known for its strength and its ability to fight — called also *pit bull terrier*

[1]pitch /ˈpɪʧ/ *noun, pl* **pitch•es**
1 : the highness or lowness of a sound [*count*] instruments with different *pitches* ▪ Her voice has a high *pitch*. ▪ The *pitch* of the engine suddenly changed from a low to a high squeal. [*noncount*] He noticed the change of *pitch* in the sound of the engine. ▪ You were a little ***off pitch*** [=too high or too low] on that last note. ▪ His singing was perfectly ***on pitch***. — see also PERFECT PITCH
2 [*count*] *baseball* : an act of throwing a baseball to a batter or the ball that is thrown to a batter ▪ His third *pitch* was a fastball down the middle of the plate. ▪ The batter was hit by an inside *pitch*. [=a ball that is thrown close to the batter] ▪ She fouled off the first *pitch*. — see also WILD PITCH
3 [*count*] : things that are said by someone (such as a salesman) in order to make someone want to buy, do, or accept something ▪ The salesman started making/delivering his *pitch* as soon as he saw us looking at the car. ▪ an advertising *pitch* — see also SALES PITCH
4 [*singular*] : a state of intense feeling ▪ Tensions between the two groups have risen to a high/feverish *pitch*. [=have become very intense] ▪ They brought the audience to such a *pitch* of excitement that you could no longer hear the music. — see also FEVER PITCH
5 [*count*] : the amount or degree of slope on a roof or other surface ▪ All the houses have roofs with steep *pitches* to prevent the buildup of snow.
6 [*noncount*] : up and down movement of a ship or airplane ▪ The water was choppy that day, and the continual *pitch* of the boat made everyone seasick. ▪ Flaps on the airplane's wings are used to control *pitch*.
7 [*count*] *Brit* : an area that is used for playing sports : PLAYING FIELD ▪ Fans ran onto the *pitch* at the end of the match. ▪ a rugby/cricket *pitch*
8 [*count*] *Brit* : an outdoor area where someone performs or sells things
9 [*count*] *golf* : PITCH SHOT
– compare [3]PITCH

[2]pitch *verb* **pitch•es**; **pitched**; **pitch•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to throw or toss (something) ▪ Passersby on the street *pitched* coins into her open guitar case as she played. ▪ They were *pitching* horseshoes. ▪ She *pitched* the empty box into the garbage. ▪ (*American football*) The quarterback *pitched* the ball underhanded to the halfback.
2 *baseball* **a** : to throw a baseball to a batter : to throw a pitch [+ *obj*] He *pitched* me a curveball. ▪ a perfectly *pitched* ball [=a pitch that is thrown perfectly] ▪ The batter was hit by a *pitched* ball. [=by a pitch] [*no obj*] Will you *pitch* to me so I can practice my swing? ▪ They've worked on improving their *pitching* and hitting since last season. ▪ He hurt his *pitching* arm/shoulder/hand. [=the arm/shoulder/hand that he uses to pitch baseballs] ▪ the team's *pitching* coach/staff **b** : to play baseball as a pitcher [+ *obj*] She *pitched* the first three innings. ▪ In his last game of the year, he *pitched* a no-hitter/shutout against the school's rival team. [*no obj*] He *pitched* in the major leagues for several years. ▪ She *pitched* well/great yesterday.
3 [+ *obj*] : to talk about or describe (something) in a favorable way so that people will want to buy it, accept it, etc. ▪ She can now be seen *pitching* [=*plugging*] cleaning products on television. ▪ It's one of the many products their company *pitches*. ▪ commercials *pitching* toys to children ▪ The drug has been *pitched* as a treatment for many ailments. — often + *to* ▪ I've been thinking about *pitching* the idea *to* my boss. ▪ She *pitched* the story *to* her editor. ▪ They *pitched* the TV show *to* several different networks before they found one that wanted to produce it.
4 [+ *obj*] **a** : to cause (a sound, your voice, etc.) to be high

or low ▪ He sometimes *pitches* his voice lower to make himself sound older. ▪ differently *pitched* sounds — see also HIGH-PITCHED, LOW-PITCHED **b** : to cause (a song, an instrument, etc.) to be in a particular musical key ▪ a tune *pitched* in the key of C ▪ differently *pitched* instruments

5 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [+ *obj*] **a** : to make or design (something) for people at a particular level ▪ They *pitched* the test at a fifth-grade reading level. ▪ The lesson was originally *pitched* to younger students. [=it was designed/intended for younger students] **b** : to cause (something) to be at a particular level ▪ Try not to *pitch* your hopes/ambitions too high.

6 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] *of a surface* : to slope downward ▪ The road *pitches* steeply down the side of the mountain. — see also PITCHED

7 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to fall or move suddenly in a particular direction ▪ He lost his balance and *pitched* forward onto the ground. ▪ The boat was *pitching* up and down in the rough waters. ▪ The nose of the airplane suddenly *pitched* downward.

8 a *golf* : to hit a golf ball so that it goes very high in the air and rolls very little after hitting the ground [*no obj*] She *pitched* onto the green from a patch of tall grass. ▪ a ***pitching wedge*** [=a type of golf club used for pitching] [+ *obj*] She *pitched* the ball up on to the green. **b** [+ *obj*] *cricket* : to cause (the ball) to bounce on the ground before reaching a batsman **c** [*no obj*] *of a ball* : to bounce on the ground ▪ Her shot landed short of the green and *pitched* into a bunker.

9 [+ *obj*] : to set up (a tent or camp) ▪ We decided to *pitch* our tents there for the night. ▪ We *pitched* camp by the river.

pitch a fit/tantrum *US, informal* : to become very upset and angry in a loud and uncontrolled way ▪ He *pitched* [=*threw*] *a fit* when she said she was going to be late again. ▪ My three-year-old *pitched* one of her temper *tantrums* when we tried to leave the party early.

pitch in [*phrasal verb*] ***pitch in or pitch in (something)*** *informal* : to do something or give something (such as money) to help a person, group, or cause ▪ Everyone has to *pitch in* [=*chip in*, *contribute*] if we're going to finish this project on time. ▪ They all *pitched in* to help. ▪ People in the town have been *pitching in* to pay the family's medical bills. ▪ I *pitched in* [=*contributed*] a couple of bucks to help pay for his birthday cake.

pitch into [*phrasal verb*] ***pitch into (someone)*** *chiefly Brit, informal* : to attack or criticize (someone) forcefully ▪ He said his mother would *pitch into* him when he got home.

pitch up [*phrasal verb*] *Brit, informal* : to appear or arrive at a place ▪ Several hundred fans *pitched up* [=*showed up*] at the hotel to welcome the team.

[3]pitch *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : a thick, black, sticky substance that is used on roofs, boats, etc., to keep out water ▪ ships sealed/coated with *pitch* ▪ The night sky was ***as black/dark as pitch***. [=extremely black/dark]

2 : a sticky substance that is produced by some trees (such as pines trees) ▪ pine *pitch*

– compare [1]PITCH

pitch–black /ˈpɪʧˈblæk/ *adj* : very dark or black ▪ It's already *pitch-black* outside. ▪ *pitch-black* hair

pitch–dark /ˈpɪʧˈdɑɚk/ *adj* : very dark ▪ It's *pitch-dark* outside.

pitched /ˈpɪʧt/ *adj* : not flat : having a slope ▪ a *pitched* roof

pitched battle *noun, pl* ~ **battles** [*count*]

1 : a major battle that is fought by large groups of soldiers

2 : a long argument or fight between people who have become very angry or emotional ▪ She has been in a *pitched battle* with her ex-husband over custody of their children.

[1]pitch•er /ˈpɪʧɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : the player who throws the ball to the batter in baseball — see also RELIEF PITCHER — compare [2]PITCHER

[2]pitcher *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *US*

1 : a container with a lip and handle that is used for holding and pouring out liquids ▪ a *pitcher* of beer — called also (*Brit*) *jug*; see picture at PLACE SETTING

2 : the amount held by a pitcher ▪ We drank a *pitcher* of water.

3 *Brit* : JUG

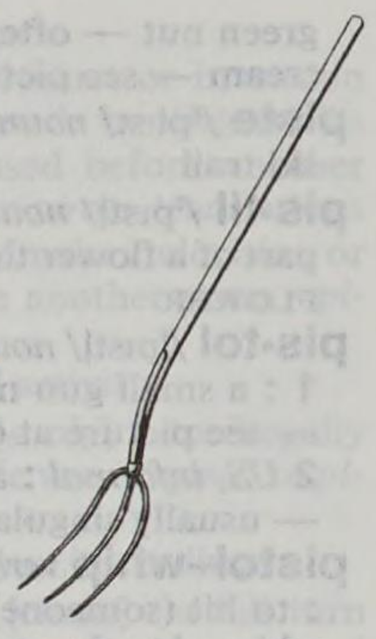
– compare [1]PITCHER

[1]pitch•fork /ˈpɪʧˌfoɚk/ *noun, pl* **-forks** [*count*] : a tool that has two or three long, thin metal bars on a long handle and that is used for lifting hay

[2]pitchfork *verb* **-forks; -forked; -fork•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to lift and throw (something) with a pitchfork ▪ The farmer *pitchforked* the hay onto the truck.

2 *Brit, informal* : to force (someone) into a situation or position suddenly or without preparation — usually used as *(be) pitchforked* ▪ He *was pitchforked* into the job.



pitchfork

pitch•man /ˈpɪʧmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] *US* : a man whose job is to talk about something (such as a product) in order to persuade people to buy or accept it ▪ a former star athlete who now works as a *pitchman* on TV

pitch•out /ˈpɪʧˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*] *baseball* : a pitch that is deliberately thrown far from the batter so that the catcher can catch the ball and throw it quickly to a base to try to put out a runner

pitch–per•fect /ˈpɪʧˈpɚfɪkt/ *adj* : having exactly the right tone or style ▪ a *pitch-perfect* performance

pitch shot *noun, pl* ~ **shots** [*count*] *golf* : a high shot that is made from an area near the green ▪ She hit a *pitch shot* onto the green. — called also *pitch*

pitch•wom•an /ˈpɪʧˌwʊmən/ *noun, pl* **-wom•en** /-ˌwɪmən/ [*count*] *US* : a woman whose job is to talk about something (such as a product) in order to persuade people to buy or accept it ▪ a celebrity *pitchwoman*

pit•e•ous /ˈpɪtijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *literary* : deserving or causing feelings of sympathy or pity ▪ a *piteous* tale ▪ The child cried out in a *piteous* voice.

– **pit•e•ous•ly** *adv*

pit•fall /ˈpɪtˌfɑːl/ *noun, pl* **-falls** [*count*] : a danger or problem that is hidden or not obvious at first — usually plural; often + *of* ▪ I warned him about the (hidden) *pitfalls of* online dating.

pith /ˈpɪθ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the white covering that is found under the skin of oranges, lemons, etc.

2 : the most important part of something — often + *of* ▪ the *pith of* the matter

pit•head /ˈpɪtˌhɛd/ *noun, pl* **-heads** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : the top of a coal mine and the area and buildings around it

pith helmet *noun, pl* ~ **-mets** [*count*] : a light, hard hat that is worn for protection from the sun in hot countries

pithy /ˈpɪθi/ *adj* **pith•i•er; -est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : using few words in a clever and effective way ▪ The critic gave the film a *pithy* review. ▪ The book is filled with *pithy* sayings about love and loss. ▪ a *pithy* little Mother's Day card

synonyms see CONCISE

2 : resembling or having a lot of pith ▪ a white, *pithy* substance

– **pith•i•ly** /ˈpɪθəli/ *adv*

piti•able /ˈpɪtijəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : deserving pity or sympathy : PITIFUL ▪ a *pitiable* orphan

– **piti•ably** /ˈpɪtijəbli/ *adv*

piti•ful /ˈpɪtɪfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : deserving or causing feelings of pity or sympathy ▪ a *pitiful* lost dog ▪ the child's *pitiful* cries

2 : causing feelings of dislike or disgust by not being enough or not being good enough ▪ a *pitiful* [=very small] amount of money ▪ a *pitiful* excuse ▪ She made a *pitiful* attempt to complete her work.

– **piti•ful•ly** *adv* ▪ a *pitifully* sad story ▪ a *pitifully* small amount of money

piti•less /ˈpɪtɪləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very cruel : having or showing no pity ▪ a *pitiless* [=*merciless*] ruler/critic ▪ The soldiers were *pitiless* toward their enemy.

2 : very harsh or severe ▪ the *pitiless* desert heat ▪ a *pitiless* storm

– **piti•less•ly** *adv* ▪ *pitilessly* cruel

pi•ton /ˈpiːˌtɑːn/ *noun, pl* **-tons** [*count*] : a pointed piece of metal used in rock climbing that is hammered into a crack in the rock in order to hold the rope which is attached to the climber

pit stop *noun, pl* ~ **stops** [*count*]

1 : a stop for fuel and minor repairs during a car race

2 *US, informal* **a** : a short stop during a journey for rest, food, or to use a bathroom ▪ We made a *pit stop* for some food before getting back on the highway. **b** : a place for

MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S LEARNER'S DICTIONARY

making such a stop ▪ This little town is an ideal *pit stop* between the two cities.

pitta *Brit spelling of* PITA

pit•tance /ˈpɪtn̩s/ *noun, pl* **-tanc•es** [*count*] : a very small amount of money — usually singular ▪ For all her work, she only made a *pittance*. ▪ He bought the car for a *pittance*.

pitted *adj*
1 *of a fruit* : with the pit removed ▪ *pitted* olives/dates
2 [*more ~; most ~*] : having many small holes or dents : having many pits ▪ the *pitted* surface of the bowl ▪ a man with *pitted* and scarred cheeks

pit•ter–pat•ter /ˈpɪtɚˌpætɚ/ *noun* [*singular*] : a quick series of light sounds — often + *of* ▪ the *pitter-patter of* little feet ▪ the *pitter-patter* of the rain
– **pit•ter–pat•ter** /ˌpɪtɚˈpætɚ/ *adv* ▪ His feet went *pitter-patter* up the stairs.

pitting *noun* [*noncount*] : small holes or dents on a surface ▪ The car's paint showed some *pitting* from flying gravel. ▪ Her face had some minor *pitting* from the chicken pox.

pi•tu•i•tary /pəˈtuːwəˌteri, *Brit* pəˈtjuːwətri/ *noun, pl* **-tar•ies** [*count*] *medical* : a small organ in the brain that produces hormones and influences growth and development — called also *pituitary gland*

[1]pity /ˈpɪti/ *noun*
1 [*noncount*] : a strong feeling of sadness or sympathy for someone or something ▪ She has had a hard life and deserves your *pity*. ▪ I felt deep *pity* for the lost dog.
2 [*singular*] : something that causes sadness or disappointment ▪ It's a *pity* [=*shame*] you can't go. = *Pity* (that) you can't go. [=I'm sorry that you can't go] ▪ I'll be out of town on that day—a (great) *pity*, since I'd love to see you. ▪ He didn't live to see his daughter grow up, and that's a *pity*.
more's the pity : UNFORTUNATELY — used to say that something is disappointing ▪ "Did you get to see her before she left?" "No, *more's the pity*." [=I regret that I didn't get to see her]
take pity on : to feel pity for (a person or animal) and do something to help ▪ I *took pity on* the stray cat and fed him.

[2]pity *verb* **pit•ies**; **pit•ied**; **pity•ing** [+ *obj*] : to feel pity for (someone or something) ▪ I *pity* anyone who has to work at that place.

pitying *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : showing or expressing pity for someone or something ▪ a *pitying* look/smile

[1]piv•ot /ˈpɪvət/ *noun, pl* **-ots**
1 [*count*] : a pin or shaft on which a mechanical part turns
2 [*count*] : the action of turning around a point : the action of pivoting — usually singular ▪ The quarterback made a quick *pivot* [=*turn*] and threw the ball to the running back.
3 [*count*] : a person or thing that is central or important to someone or something else — usually singular ▪ Their children had become the *pivot* around which their life turned.
4 [*noncount*] *basketball* : a position in which a player on offense faces away from the basket to pass to or assist other teammates trying to score ▪ Their center is a strong player ***in the pivot***.

[2]pivot *verb* **-ots**; **-ot•ed**; **-ot•ing** [*no obj*] : to turn on or around a central point ▪ The dancers *pivoted* on their toes and changed direction. ▪ The door hinge *pivots* around the pin. ▪ The quarterback *pivoted* and threw the ball to the running back.
pivot on/around [*phrasal verb*] ***pivot on/around (something)*** : to be based on (something) ▪ Our vacation plans will *pivot around* how much money we can save. ▪ The book's plot *pivots on* the main character's need for revenge.

piv•ot•al /ˈpɪvətl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very important ▪ She is at a *pivotal* point in her career. ▪ a *pivotal* [=*critical*] moment/decision

piv•ot•man /ˈpɪvətˌmæn/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-ˌmɛn/ [*count*] *basketball* : a player who plays in the pivot : the center on a team

pix *plural of* PIC

pix•el /ˈpɪksəl/ *noun, pl* **-els** [*count*] : any one of the very small dots that together form the picture on a television screen, computer monitor, etc.

pix•e•lat•ed *also* **pix•i•lat•ed** /ˈpɪksəˌleɪtəd/ *adj, of an image on a computer or television screen* : made up of a small number of large pixels that produce a picture which is not clear or sharp ▪ a heavily *pixelated* image

pix•ie *also* **pixy** /ˈpɪksi/ *noun, pl* **pix•ies** [*count*] : an imaginary creature that looks like a small person and has magical powers

piz•za /ˈpiːtsə/ *noun, pl* **-zas** : a food made from flat, usually round bread that is topped with usually tomato sauce and cheese and often with meat or vegetables [*count*] We ordered a *pizza* for supper. [*noncount*] I ordered *pizza* for supper. ▪ a slice of pepperoni/cheese *pizza* — called also *pizza pie*

piz•zazz *or* **pi•zazz** /pəˈzæz/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : a quality or style that is exciting and interesting ▪ The young actress has a lot of *pizzazz*. ▪ The song has plenty of *pizzazz*.

piz•ze•ria /ˌpiːtsəˈriːjə/ *noun, pl* **-rias** [*count*] : a restaurant where mainly pizzas are served

piz•zi•ca•to /ˌpɪtsɪˈkɑːtoʊ/ *adv* — used as a direction in music to indicate that notes should be played by plucking the strings of a violin, viola, cello, etc., with the fingers instead of by using a bow ▪ The section should be played *pizzicato*.
– **pizzicato** *adj* ▪ a *pizzicato* solo

pj's /ˈpiːˌʤeɪz/ *noun* [*plural*] *informal* : PAJAMAS

pkg. *abbr* package

pkt *abbr* packet

pkwy *abbr* parkway

pl. *abbr* **1** place **2** plural

plac•ard /ˈplækɚd/ *noun, pl* **-ards** [*count*] : a large notice or sign put up in a public place or carried by people ▪ The *placard* on the door says that the church was built in the late 1600s. ▪ protesters carrying *placards*

pla•cate /ˈpleɪˌkeɪt, *Brit* pləˈkeɪt/ *verb* **-cates**; **-cat•ed**; **-cat•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to cause (someone) to feel less angry about something ▪ The administration *placated* protesters by agreeing to consider their demands. ▪ The angry customer was not *placated* by the clerk's apology.

[1]place /ˈpleɪs/ *noun, pl* **plac•es**
1 [*count*] : a specific area or region of the world : a particular city, country, etc. ▪ Please state your *place* of birth and your current *place* of residence. [=where you were born and where you live now] ▪ New York City is a nice *place* to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there. ▪ I've heard it's a good *place* to raise children. ▪ *places* like Africa and South America ▪ traveling to distant/exotic/faraway/remote *places* ▪ the hottest *place* on earth
2 [*count*] : a building or area that is used for a particular purpose ▪ churches and other *places* of worship ▪ a *place* of learning/business ▪ You should plan to meet him in a public *place*. ▪ a local gathering/meeting *place* ▪ Muslim holy *places* ▪ ancient burial *places* ▪ We had dinner at a great little Italian *place* [=*restaurant*] downtown. ▪ He tried several *places* [=*stores*], but no one sold the ingredients he needed. ▪ You've come to the right *place*. I have just what you need. ▪ This bar is ***the place to be*** [=it is where many people go and where exciting things happen] on Saturday nights.
3 [*count*] **a** : a building, part of a building, or area that is used for shelter ▪ They gave him a *place* to stay for the night. **b** : a house, apartment, etc., where a person lives : HOME ▪ We're going to need a bigger *place* once the baby is born. ▪ He's looking to buy a *place* in the country. ▪ Shall we go to my *place* or yours? ▪ our summer *place*
4 [*count*] : a particular space or area ▪ This looks like a good *place* [=*location*, *spot*] to stop and rest. ▪ It's nice to have the whole family together in one *place*. ▪ Keep your jewelry and other valuables in a safe *place*. ▪ The map is torn in (some) *places*. [=some parts of the map are torn] ▪ The bone in her leg broke in two *places*. ▪ Try looking for the phrase in another *place* in the dictionary. ▪ A person can only be in one *place* at one time. ▪ The guards/chairs were not in their proper *places*. ▪ Wires carry the information ***from place to place***. = They carry it ***from one place to another***. ▪ Success is sometimes just a matter of being in ***the right place at the right time***. ▪ You were just unlucky; you happened to be at ***the wrong place at the wrong time***. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ She keeps a special *place* in her heart for mistreated animals. ▪ When I left the army, I was in a very strange *place* mentally. [=I was in a very strange mental state] — see also HIDING PLACE, RESTING PLACE
5 [*count*] : a particular point that you reach in a discussion, book, etc. — usually singular ▪ This seems like a good *place* to end our discussion for today. ▪ He used the receipt to keep/mark his *place* in the book he was reading. ▪ She dropped the magazine on the floor and ***lost her place***.
6 [*count*] : an available seat, space, or amount of room ▪ There's no *place* to sit down. ▪ I found a *place* to put my things. ▪ They didn't have a good *place* for the painting in their apartment. ▪ If you get to the theater before me, could you save me a *place*? ▪ "Excuse me, is this *place* taken?" "Yes,

I'm saving it for my friend." ▪ She said she couldn't see the stage and asked if he would change/trade/swap/switch *places* with her. ▪ During the ceremony, he was given a ***place of honor*** [=a seat for someone who is being honored] next to the president's wife. ▪ We'll have to ***make a place*** [=make a space available; make room] for our guests. ▪ We *made a place* for you at the dinner table.

7 [*count*] : a particular position in a line especially of people or vehicles ▪ I had to use the bathroom, but I didn't want to lose my *place* in line. ▪ Would you save/hold our *places* (in line), please?

8 [*count*] : a particular position during or at the end of a race or competition — usually singular ▪ The runner from the U.S. is currently in third *place*. ▪ Their horse finished in last *place*. ▪ The two teams are tied for second *place*. ▪ "Who took first *place*?" "First *place* went to the red team."

9 [*count*] **a** : a position in a group, course, organization, school, etc. ▪ They offered her a *place* [=*job*] on their staff. ▪ He started getting bad grades and lost his *place* on the basketball team. [=he was no longer allowed to be on the team] ▪ She was guaranteed a *place* in the college. ▪ There are two *places* still open in the course/class. ▪ He has friends ***in high places*** [=friends who have power and influence] — often used figuratively ▪ Her courage during the war earned her a *place* in history. [=she is remembered as an important person in history because of her courage during the war] ▪ She has an important *place* in the community. [=she is an important part of the community] ▪ He occupies a prominent *place* among the great musicians of our time. **b** : the proper position of someone in a group or society ▪ The queen's servants must know their *place* and act accordingly. [=they must act like servants] ▪ It's not my *place* [=it is not appropriate for me] to punish other people's children. ▪ It was not his *place* to make the final decision.

10 a [*singular*] : an appropriate situation or setting ▪ There's a time and a *place* for everything. ▪ This is neither the time nor the *place* to talk about money. **b** [*count*] : a particular situation or set of conditions ▪ Call me if you ever find yourself in a tight *place*. ▪ Anyone in her *place* [=*position*] would have done the same thing. ▪ I love my life and wouldn't ***change/trade/swap/switch places*** with anyone in the world!

11 [*count*] *mathematics* : the position of a digit in a number ▪ In the number 316, the digit 1 is in the tens *place*. ▪ Move the decimal point two *places* to the right. ▪ a number with three ***decimal places*** [=a number with three digits that follow the decimal point; a number like 2.345 or .678] ▪ In the number 2.468, the 4 is in the first *decimal place*.

12 — used in the names of streets ▪ He lives at 313 Jackson *Place*.

all over the place *informal* **1** : in many different areas or locations : EVERYWHERE ▪ New houses are springing up *all over the place* in that part of the country. ▪ The kids left their toys *all over the place*. ▪ Bullets were flying *all over the place*. **2** : not organized in a logical way ▪ Your essay lacks organization; your ideas are *all over the place*.

between a rock and a hard place see ²ROCK

fall into place see ¹FALL

give place to (something) *formal* : to be replaced by (something) ▪ Confidence *gave place to* [=(more commonly) *gave way to*] fear. ▪ Further down the street, tall office buildings *give place to* rows of tidy houses.

go places : to become successful ▪ She has enough ambition to really *go places*. ▪ The band is clearly *going places*.

keep (someone) in his/her place : to prevent (someone) from achieving a higher social status ▪ Such social rules were used to *keep* women *in their place*.

in place **1** : in the proper position ▪ He makes sure that every hair on his head is *in place* before leaving the house. ▪ Tape held/kept the photo *in place*. ▪ The house's walls are *in place*, but nothing else has been done. ▪ With all the performers *in place*, we were ready to rehearse. **2** : in the state of being used or active ▪ The new computer system should be *in place* by next Monday. ▪ These changes were already *in place* when the new president took office. ▪ Plans are *in place* for the upcoming hurricane season. **3** *US* : in the same location without moving forward or backward. ▪ To warm up before swimming practice, we run *in place* [=(*Brit*) *on the spot*] for five minutes.

in place of (someone or something) *or* ***in someone's or something's place*** : as a substitute or replacement for someone or something ▪ Use milk *in place of* [=*instead of*] water for creamier hot chocolate. ▪ *In place of* butter, olive oil was served with the bread. ▪ The prince ruled the kingdom *in place of* his father. = The prince ruled the kingdom *in* his father's *place*. ▪ She couldn't attend the meeting, so she sent her secretary *in* her *place*.

in the first place — used at the end of a sentence to indicate what was true or what should have been done at the beginning of a situation ▪ We should never have gone there *in the first place*. [=*to begin with*] ▪ I didn't care much for the job *in the first place*.

in the first/second place — used when listing the most important parts of something or the most important reasons for something ▪ I'm not going to tell you because, *in the first place*, it's none of your business, and *in the second place*, you would tell everyone else.

into place **1** : into the proper position ▪ She lowered her glasses then pushed them back *into place*. **2** : into the state of being used or active ▪ The curfew was ***put into place*** [=was established] by the town's mayor. ▪ The plan will be *put into place* over the course of several months.

no place for — used to say that someone or something does not belong in a particular place, situation, etc. ▪ This party is *no place for* children. [=children should not be allowed at this party] ▪ There is *no place for* racism in our society.

of all places — used to say that it is unusual or surprising that something happened in or is true about a particular place ▪ She met her future husband in a grocery store, *of all places*.

out of place **1** : not in the correct location or position ▪ Nothing in the room was *out of place*. **2** : not in a typical or appropriate situation or setting ▪ Their modern style home seems oddly *out of place* among the town's old farmhouses. ▪ She wouldn't look *out of place* on the cover of a fashion magazine. ▪ I feel a bit *out of place* [=I feel like I don't belong] with my wife's family. ▪ The law seems particularly *out of place* in today's society.

place in the sun see ¹SUN

pride of place see ¹PRIDE

put someone in his/her place ✧ Someone who *puts you in your place* shows you that you are not better than other people and should not be acting in such a confident and proud way. ▪ He told her to stop talking, but she quickly *put him in his place*.

take place : to happen ▪ The wedding is set to *take place* this July. ▪ Negotiations are now *taking place* between the two governments. ▪ He didn't understand what had just *taken place*. ▪ Where does the story ***take place***? [=where is the story set?]

take someone's or something's place *or* ***take the place of (someone or something)*** : to replace someone or something ▪ Who will *take the king's place* when he dies? ▪ We solved the original problem, but now a new one has *taken its place*. ▪ I was too busy to attend the meeting, so I had my secretary *take my place*. ▪ Who will *take the place of* the current pope? ▪ Televisions began to *take the place of* radios in most families' homes.

take your place **1** : to go to the location where you are supposed to sit, stand, etc. ▪ The goalie *took her place* on the field. ▪ The actors *take their places* on the stage and the curtain rises. ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) Ladies and gentlemen, please *take your places*. [=(*US*) *take your seats*] The play is about to begin. **2** : to be thought of or considered as sharing a particular rank or status with others ▪ He has *taken his place* among/alongside/beside/with history's most brutal dictators. ▪ The film will surely *take its place* among the greatest films of all time. [=will be recognized as one of the greatest films of all time] ▪ The hurricane will *take its place* in history as one of this country's worst natural disasters.

²place *verb* places; placed; plac·ing

1 [+ *obj*] : to put (something or someone) in a particular place or position ▪ Please *place* [=*set*, *lay*] the book on my desk. ▪ She *placed* [=*rested*] her hand on his shoulder. ▪ The box was *placed* at the center of the room. ▪ You can really see the similarities when you *place* the two pictures side by side. ▪ Her name was *placed* on the list. ▪ The husbands and wives were *placed* in separate groups. ▪ New flowers had been *placed* [=*positioned*] around the edges of the garden. ▪ They were *placed* next to each other in line.

2 [+ *obj*] : to put (someone or something) in a particular state, condition, or situation ▪ Working with sick people *places* him at risk for infection. ▪ By not accepting the prosecutor's deal, he *places* his future in the hands of the jury. ▪ We're *placing* you under arrest. ▪ He was released from jail and *placed* on probation.

3 [+ *obj*] **a** — used to say that something is thought of as

important, valuable, etc.; + *on* or *upon* ▪ They *place* great importance *on* both work and family. [=they believe that both work and family are important] ▪ She talked about the high value that her parents *place on* education. ▪ Some parents *place* a lot of emphasis *on* winning, but we just want our children to have fun playing sports. **b** — used to say who or what you believe should be trusted, blamed, etc. ▪ We have no choice but to *place* our faith in the legal system. [=to trust the legal system] ▪ Too many children in this country are overweight, and I *place* most of the blame on a lack of exercise. [=I blame the problem on a lack of exercise] ▪ Their plan *places* heavy reliance [=their plan relies heavily] upon cooperation from others.

4 [+ *obj*] : to cause or require someone or something to deal with (a demand, burden, etc.) — + *on* or *upon* ▪ The growing population is *placing* increasing demands *on* our schools. [=it is causing our schools to deal with increasing demands] ▪ The financial burden of the program is ultimately *placed upon* the taxpayers. [=the taxpayers have to pay for the program] ▪ He managed to get a lot done, considering the time constraints that were *placed on* him. ▪ restrictions *placed upon* a person's freedom

5 [+ *obj*] **a** : to perform the actions that are required for (something) ▪ He *placed* a collect (phone) call to his wife. ▪ ***Place your bets.*** **b** : to give (an order) to someone ▪ The company *placed* an order (with the manufacturer) for an additional 100 units. ▪ "Are you ready to *place* your order?" asked the waiter. **c** : to cause (something, such as an advertisement) to appear somewhere ▪ We tried selling our house by *placing* an ad in the newspaper.

6 [+ *obj*] : to find an appropriate place for (someone) to live, work, or learn ▪ The agency helps *place* unemployed workers. ▪ The child was removed from the home and *placed* in the care of relatives. ▪ The children were *placed* with a foster family. ▪ In high school, she was *placed* in advanced math and science classes.

7 [+ *obj*] : to show or prove the location of (someone or something) at a particular time ▪ The evidence *places* you at the scene of the crime. ▪ Investigators were able to *place* him at several of these meetings. ▪ The company's records *place* three of their trucks in the area that day.

8 [+ *obj*] : to remember where you saw (someone or someone's face) in the past ▪ The man looked familiar but she couldn't quite *place* him. ▪ It wasn't until later that I *placed* her face: she was my ninth grade English teacher, Ms. Lee.

9 a [*no obj*] *US* : to end a race or competition in a particular position ▪ He *placed* fifth in last year's race. ▪ The team *placed* second overall. ▪ The first three participants to *place* in each event will receive medals. **b** *Brit* ✧ Someone who ***is placed*** first, second, (etc.) in a race or competition has finished in that position. ▪ He *was placed* fifth in last year's race. ▪ The team *was placed* second overall.

10 [+ *obj*] : to give (someone or something) a particular rank in a series or category ▪ Tolstoy's *War and Peace* is often *placed* [=*ranked*, *rated*] among the greatest masterpieces of world literature. ▪ Among the most serious problems facing the world, global warming is often *placed* first. ▪ The administration *places* [=*puts*, *sets*] improving the country's healthcare system high on their list of priorities.

pla•ce•bo /plə'si:boʊ/ *noun, pl* **-bos** [*count*] *medicine* : a pill or substance that is given to a patient like a drug but that has no physical effect on the patient ✧ Patients who have been given a placebo that they think is a real drug may feel better because they believe that they are getting actual medicine. The improvement that they experience in their health is called the ***placebo effect***. Placebos are also used in tests to compare the effect of a real drug with a substance that does not have any physical effect.

place•kick /'pleɪs,kɪk/ *noun, pl* **-kicks** [*count*] : a kick that is made in sports like American football and rugby when the ball has been put on the ground
– **place•kick•er** /'pleɪs,kɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly US*

place mat *noun, pl* ~ **mats** [*count*] : a small, often rectangular mat on which a set of dishes, knives, forks, etc., for one person are placed at a table — see picture at PLACE SETTING

place•ment /'pleɪsmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**
1 : the act of putting something in a particular place [*noncount*] the strategic *placement* of products at the entrance of a store ▪ the *placement* of microphones around the room [*count*] The director tried several different camera *placements* for the scene.
2 [*noncount*] : the act of finding an appropriate place for someone to live, work, or learn ▪ The agency has overseen the *placement* of hundreds of children in loving homes. ▪ the *placement* of unemployed workers — often used before another noun ▪ We give all applicants *placement* tests to determine their level of proficiency. ▪ job *placement* programs

place name *noun, pl* ~ **names** [*count*] : the name of a city, town, lake, country, etc. ▪ Many of the area's *place names* come from Native American languages.

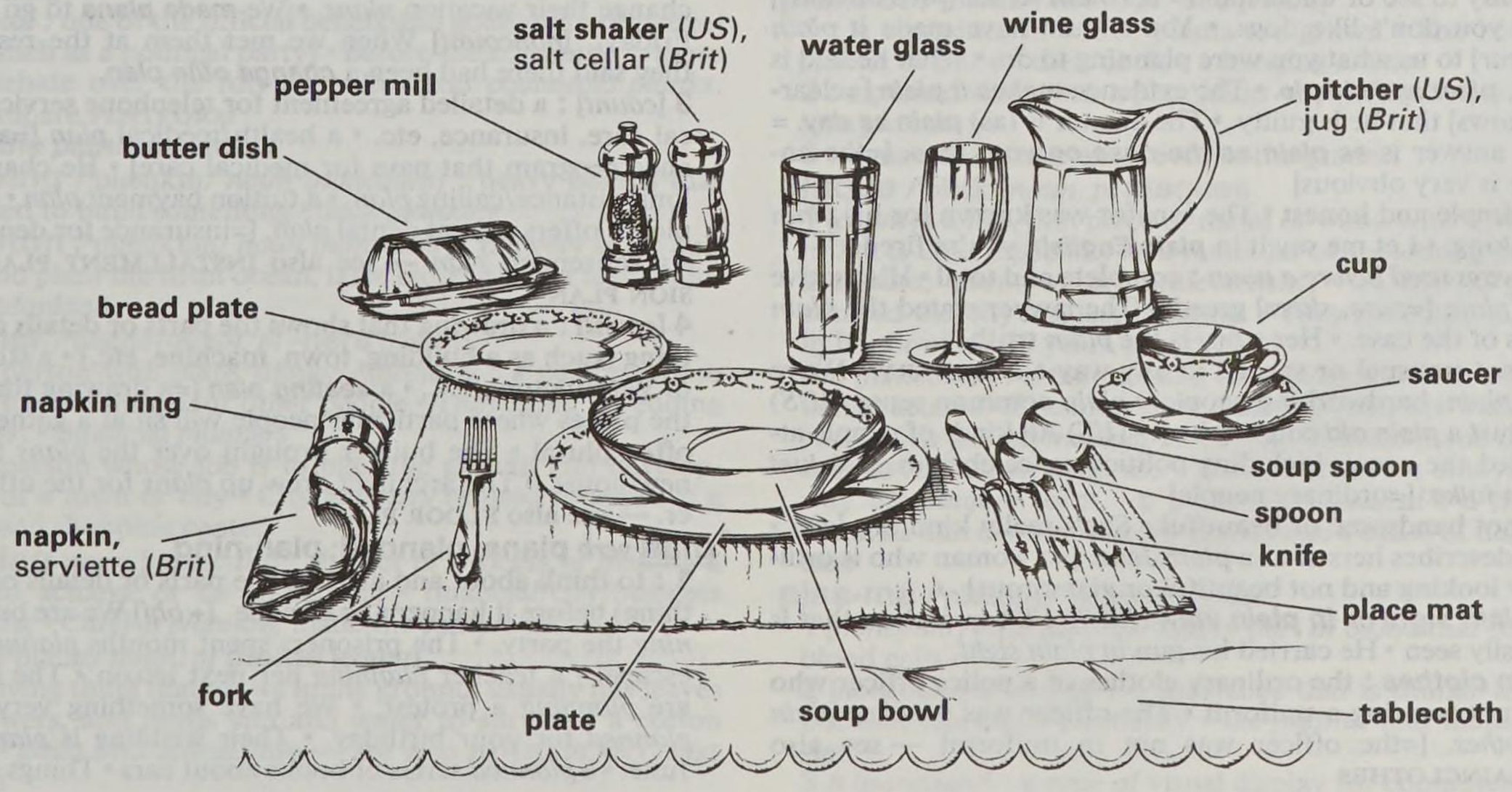
pla•cen•ta /plə'sɛntə/ *noun, pl* **-tas** [*count*] *medical* : the organ in mammals that forms inside the mother's uterus, nourishes the unborn baby, and is pushed out of the mother after the birth of the baby
– **pla•cen•tal** /plə'sɛntl/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *placental* blood ▪ the *placental* membrane

place setting *noun, pl* ~ **-tings** [*count*] : a set of dishes, knives, forks, etc., that are put on a table for one person ▪ Please lay another *place setting* for our guest.

plac•id /'plæsəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : not easily upset or excited ▪ a person with a sunny, *placid* disposition
2 : not moving much : calm and steady ▪ the *placid* surface of the lake
– **pla•cid•i•ty** /plə'sɪdəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *placidity* of the quiet morning – **plac•id•ly** *adv*

plac•ing /'pleɪsɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] *Brit* : RANKING

place setting



pla·gia·rism /ˈpleɪʤəˌrɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the act of using another person's words or ideas without giving credit to that person : the act of plagiarizing something ▪ The student has been accused of *plagiarism*.
– **pla·gia·rist** /ˈpleɪʤərɪst/ *noun, pl* **-rists** [*count*] ▪ The student is accused of being a *plagiarist*.

pla·gia·rize *also Brit* **pla·gia·rise** /ˈpleɪʤəˌraɪz/ *verb* **-riz·es; -rized; -riz·ing** : to use the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own words or ideas [+ *obj*] He *plagiarized* a classmate's report. [*no obj*] She *plagiarized* from an article she read on the Internet.

[1]plague /ˈpleɪg/ *noun, pl* **plagues**
1 [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a large number of harmful or annoying things ▪ The country was hit by a *plague* of natural disasters that year. ▪ a *plague of* locusts ▪ There has been a *plague of* bank robberies in the area.
2 a : a disease that causes death and that spreads quickly to a large number of people [*count*] a *plague* that swept through the tribe in the 1600s [*noncount*] a time of *plague*
b [*noncount*] : BUBONIC PLAGUE ▪ an outbreak of (the) *plague*
avoid (someone or something) like the plague *informal* : to stay away as much as possible from (someone or something) ▪ I *avoid* my weird neighbor *like the plague*.

[2]plague *verb* **plagues; plagued; plagu·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to cause constant or repeated trouble, illness, etc., for (someone or something) ▪ parasites that *plague* deer ▪ Computer viruses *plague* Internet users. ▪ Crime *plagues* the inner city. ▪ Drought and wildfires continue to *plague* the area. — often used as *(be) plagued* ▪ The new plane has *been plagued* by/with mechanical problems. [=has had many mechanical problems] ▪ an athlete *plagued* by knee injuries
2 : to cause constant worry or distress to (someone) — usually used as *(be) plagued* ▪ He *is plagued* by a sense of guilt. ▪ She *is plagued* by fear of another terrorist attack. ▪ I *was plagued* with doubts about my decision.

plaice /ˈpleɪs/ *noun, pl* **plaice** [*count, noncount*] : a fish that has a flat body and that is eaten as food

plaid /ˈplæd/ *noun, pl* **plaids**
1 [*noncount*] : a pattern on cloth of stripes with different widths that cross each other to form squares — often used before another noun ▪ a *plaid* pattern ▪ a *plaid* shirt — see color picture on page C12
2 *plaids* [*plural*] *US* : clothes with plaid patterns ▪ She likes to wear *plaids*.
3 [*count*] : a woolen cloth with a plaid pattern that is worn over the shoulder as part of the Scottish national costume

[1]plain /ˈpleɪn/ *adj* **plain·er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*]
1 : having no pattern or decoration ▪ Her dress was *plain*. ▪ a *plain* fabric ▪ It was a *plain* room with no curtains. ▪ She was wearing *plain* black shoes. ▪ He printed the picture on *plain* paper.
2 : not having any added or extra things ▪ a glass of *plain* [=*pure*] water ▪ a piece of *plain* chicken ▪ *plain* yogurt ▪ You don't have to call me Mr. Johnson—just *plain* Fred will be fine. ▪ (*Brit*) The recipe calls for 250 grams of ***plain flour***. [=(*US*) all-purpose flour]
3 : easy to see or understand ▪ It's *plain* to see [=it's obvious] that you don't like dogs. ▪ You should have made it *plain* [=*clear*] to us what you were planning to do. ▪ What he said is a lie, ***plain and simple***. ▪ The evidence ***makes it plain*** [=clearly shows] that he is guilty. ▪ The answer is (as) ***plain as day***. = The answer is ***as plain as the nose on your face***. [=the answer is very obvious]
4 : simple and honest ▪ The senator was known for his *plain* speaking. ▪ Let me say it in ***plain English***: you're fired.
5 *always used before a noun* : complete and total ▪ His motive was *plain* [=*pure, sheer*] greed. ▪ The lawyer stated the *plain* facts of the case. ▪ Her story is the *plain* truth.
6 : not unusual or special in any way : ORDINARY ▪ We're just *plain*, hardworking people. ▪ *plain* common sense ▪ (*US*) I'm just a ***plain old*** country boy. ▪ (*US*) All kinds of people attended the event, including politicians, celebrities, and ***just plain folks***. [=ordinary people]
7 : not handsome or beautiful ▪ She's really kind of *plain*. ▪ She describes herself as a ***plain Jane***. [=a woman who is ordinary looking and not beautiful or glamorous]
in plain sight *or* ***in plain view*** *chiefly US* : in a place that is easily seen ▪ He carried his gun *in plain sight*.
plain clothes : the ordinary clothes of a police officer who is not wearing a uniform ▪ The officer was wearing *plain clothes*. [=the officer was not in uniform] — see also PLAINCLOTHES
plain sailing see SAILING
– **plain·ly** *adv* ▪ The camp is for kids who like sports, which he *plainly* [=*obviously, definitely*] does. ▪ The star was *plainly* [=*clearly*] visible in the sky toward the north. ▪ The book states quite *plainly* [=*openly, simply*] that he was part of the plot. ▪ She always dresses *plainly*. – **plain·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *plainness* of her clothes

[2]plain *noun, pl* **plains** [*count*] : a large area of flat land without trees ▪ the Spanish *plain* ▪ the Great *Plains* of the United States

[3]plain *adv, informal* : truly or completely ▪ Her answer was misleading, if not *plain* dishonest. — used to make a statement or description more forceful ▪ She *plain* forgot to call me. ▪ You are ***just plain*** wrong.

plain chocolate *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : DARK CHOCOLATE

plain·clothes /ˈpleɪnˈkloʊz/ *adj, always used before a noun* : dressed in ordinary clothes and not a uniform while on duty ▪ a *plainclothes* police officer — see also *plain clothes* at [1]PLAIN

plain·clothes·man /ˈpleɪnˈkloʊzmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a police officer who does not wear a uniform while on duty

plain·spo·ken /ˈpleɪnˈspoʊkən/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : expressing opinions, ideas, beliefs, etc., in a simple and honest way ▪ a *plainspoken* man ▪ *plainspoken* eloquence

plain·tiff /ˈpleɪntəf/ *noun, pl* **-tiffs** [*count*] *law* : a person who sues another person or accuses another person of a crime in a court of law — compare DEFENDANT

plain·tive /ˈpleɪntɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : expressing suffering or sadness : having a sad sound ▪ a *plaintive* [=*mournful, sorrowful*] sigh ▪ We could hear the *plaintive* cry of a wounded animal in the woods.
– **plain·tive·ly** *adv*

plain–vanilla *adj, chiefly US, informal* : not having any special features or qualities ▪ We bought the *plain-vanilla* CD player. [=the most basic model]

[1]plait /ˈpleɪt, *Brit* ˈplæt/ *verb* **plaits; plait·ed; plait·ing** [+ *obj*] *chiefly Brit* : to twist together three pieces of (hair, rope, etc.) : BRAID ▪ My mum taught me how to *plait* my own hair.

[2]plait *noun, pl* **plaits** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : an arrangement of hair made by weaving three sections together : BRAID ▪ She wore her hair in *plaits*.

[1]plan /ˈplæn/ *noun, pl* **plans**
1 : a set of actions that have been thought of as a way to do or achieve something [*count*] the President's economic *plan* ▪ the army's *plan* of attack ▪ We need to agree on a ***plan of action***. — often + *for* ▪ The partners created a business *plan for* their new store. ▪ The city has a ten-year *plan for* fixing the city's roads. [*noncount*] Not everything at the show went ***according to plan***. [=the way it was supposed to] — see also GAME PLAN, MASTER PLAN
2 : something that a person intends to do [*count*] Our *plan* was to have the guests park on the street, not the lawn. — often plural ▪ We would love to have dinner at your house Friday night, but we already have *plans*. [=we are already planning/expecting to do something else] ▪ They didn't want to change their vacation *plans*. ▪ We ***made plans*** to go out this Friday. [*noncount*] When we met them at the restaurant, they said there had been a ***change of/in plan***.
3 [*count*] : a detailed agreement for telephone service, medical care, insurance, etc. ▪ a health/medical *plan* [=an insurance program that pays for medical care] ▪ He changed his long-distance/calling *plan*. ▪ a tuition payment *plan* ▪ Her employer offers a great dental *plan*. [=insurance for dental care] ▪ a retirement *plan* — see also INSTALLMENT PLAN, PENSION PLAN
4 [*count*] : a drawing that shows the parts or details of something (such as a building, town, machine, etc.) ▪ a street *plan* of Washington, D.C. ▪ a ***seating plan*** [=a drawing that shows the places where particular people will sit at a gathering] — often plural ▪ The builder brought over the *plans* for their new house. ▪ The architect drew up *plans* for the office tower. — see also FLOOR PLAN

[2]plan *verb* **plans; planned; plan·ning**
1 : to think about and arrange the parts or details of (something) before it happens or is made [+ *obj*] We are busy *planning* the party. ▪ The prisoners spent months *planning* their escape. ▪ a teacher *planning* her next lesson ▪ The students are *planning* a protest. ▪ We have something very special *planned* for your birthday. ▪ Their wedding is *planned* for June. ▪ a *planned* series of books about cars ▪ Things don't al-

ways ***go as planned***. — sometimes + *out* ▪ That crash was no accident. They had the whole thing *planned out* to get insurance money. ▪ They *planned* the whole thing *out*. ▪ You should first *plan out* your essay. [*no obj*] Always remember to ***plan ahead***.

2 a : to intend or expect to do (something) [+ *obj*] — followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ She *plans to move out* and get a divorce. ▪ Please let us know if you *plan to attend*. [*no obj*] — followed by *on* + *-ing verb* ▪ We don't *plan on going* anywhere tonight. ▪ They *plan on coming* to the party. **b** [*no obj*] : to expect something to happen — + *for* or *on* ▪ They didn't *plan for* [=*anticipate*] such a long wait at the restaurant. ▪ She didn't *plan on* such cold weather.

[1]plane /ˈpleɪn/ *noun, pl* **planes**

1 : a vehicle that has wings and an engine and can carry people or things in the air : AIRPLANE [*count*] a cargo *plane* [*noncount*] We will be traveling to Rome by *plane*. — often used before another noun ▪ a *plane* crash/ride

2 [*count*] *geometry* : a flat or level surface that extends outward like a sheet ▪ a horizontal *plane*

3 [*count*] : a level of thought, existence, or development ▪ He uses meditation to reach a higher spiritual *plane*. ▪ I don't consider the two writers' stories as being on the same *plane*.

[2]plane *verb* **planes**; **planed**; **plan·ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (a piece of wood) smooth or level by cutting off thin pieces with a special tool (called a plane) ▪ He had to *plane* the edge of the door so it would close better.

[3]plane *noun, pl* **planes** [*count*] : a sharp tool that is pushed along a piece of wood to smooth or shape the surface — see picture at CARPENTRY

plane·load /ˈpleɪnˌloʊd/ *noun, pl* **-loads** [*count*] : an amount or number of people or things that will fill an airplane ▪ a *planeload* of troops

plan·er /ˈpleɪnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : an electric tool that is used for smoothing the surface of a board

plan·et /ˈplænət/ *noun, pl* **-ets**

1 [*count*] : a large, round object in space (such as the Earth) that travels around a star (such as the sun)

2 ***the planet*** : the planet Earth ▪ We must help preserve *the planet*. = We must help preserve *the planet's* environment.

3 — used in informal phrases to say that someone is not aware of what is really happening or has ideas that are not realistic or practical ▪ You think they'll help us? Are you ***(living) on another planet***? ▪ ***What planet are you living on***? ▪ She looked at me as if I were ***someone from another planet***.

plan·e·tar·i·um /ˌplænəˈterijəm/ *noun, pl* **-i·ums** *or* **-ia** /-ijə/ [*count*] : a building or room in which images of stars, planets, etc., are shown on a high, curved ceiling

plan·e·tary /ˈplænəˌteri, *Brit* ˈplænətri/ *adj, always used before a noun, technical* : of or relating to planets ▪ a *planetary* system ▪ *planetary* motion/orbit

plan·gent /ˈplændʒənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal + literary, of a sound* : loud, deep, and often sad ▪ a *plangent* tone/chord ▪ a *plangent* cry

plank /ˈplæŋk/ *noun, pl* **planks** [*count*]

1 : a long, thick board that is used especially in building something

2 *formal* : one of the official beliefs and goals of an organization (such as a political party) ▪ Before the convention, there was debate over the foreign policy and economic *planks*. — compare PLATFORM

walk the plank see [1]WALK

plank·ing /ˈplæŋkɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : heavy boards that are used to build something ▪ deck *planking*

plank·ton /ˈplæŋktən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the very small animal and plant life in an ocean, lake, etc. ▪ fish that feed mainly on *plankton*

plan·ner /ˈplænɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ners** [*count*]

1 : a person who plans things; *especially* : a person whose job is to plan things for other people ▪ They hired a wedding *planner*. ▪ financial *planners*

2 : a person whose job is to plan the growth and development of a town or city ▪ City *planners* refused to approve a proposed shopping center.

planning *noun* [*noncount*] : the act or process of making a plan to achieve or do something ▪ financial/city/business *planning* ▪ Careful *planning* made the party a success.

[1]plant /ˈplænt/ *noun, pl* **plants** [*count*]

1 : a living thing that grows in the ground, usually has leaves or flowers, and needs sun and water to survive ▪ a cotton *plant* ▪ *plant* and animal life — see also HOUSEPLANT, POT PLANT

2 a : a building or factory where something is made ▪ an auto *plant* ▪ an ice-cream *plant* — see also POWER PLANT **b** *US* : the land, buildings, and equipment of an organization ▪ the college's ***physical plant***

3 a : something that is put in a place to trick or confuse people ▪ He claimed police left the glove at the crime scene as a *plant*. [=as false evidence to make it look like he committed the crime] **b** : a person who is put in a place as a spy or for a secret purpose ▪ The gangsters never suspected that he was a police *plant*.

– **plant·like** /ˈplæntˌlaɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *plantlike* organisms

[2]plant *verb* **plants**; **plant·ed**; **plant·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to put (a seed, flower, or plant) in the ground to grow ▪ He *planted* the seeds. ▪ I *planted* corn this year. **b** : to fill (an area) *with* seeds, flowers, or plants ▪ I *planted* the border *with* roses. ▪ a field *planted with* corn

2 a : to put or place (something) in the ground ▪ She *planted* stakes in the garden to hold the vines. **b** : to put or place (something or yourself) firmly or forcefully on a surface or in a particular position ▪ He *planted* a punch on the other boxer's nose. [=he punched the other boxer's nose] ▪ She *planted* a big kiss on his cheek. [=she gave him a big kiss on his cheek] ▪ I firmly *planted* my feet and refused to move. ▪ He *planted* himself in front of the TV and stayed there.

3 a : to put (someone or something) in a place secretly ▪ Terrorists *planted* a bomb in the bus station. ▪ She claims that the police *planted* the drugs in her car. ▪ The police officers were accused of *planting* evidence at the scene. [=placing objects at the scene to make someone seem guilty of a crime] ▪ He was a spy *planted* in the office by a rival company. **b** : to cause (a story, rumor, etc.) to be reported or talked about usually for some secret purpose ▪ Someone *planted* a rumor saying that he had died. ▪ They *planted* a story in the press about her mental problems.

4 : to cause (an idea, feeling, etc.) to be in someone's mind ▪ She *planted* the first seeds of doubt in my mind. ▪ The story *planted* the idea of starting my own business in my mind. [=the story made me think of starting my own business]

[1]plan·tain /ˈplæntn̩/ *noun, pl* **-tains** [*count, noncount*] : a greenish fruit that comes from a kind of banana plant and is eaten after it has been cooked ▪ a fried *plantain* — compare [2]PLANTAIN

[2]plantain *noun, pl* **-tains** [*count*] : a common weed with leaves that grow near the ground and small greenish flowers — compare [1]PLANTAIN

plan·ta·tion /plænˈteɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*]

1 : a large area of land especially in a hot part of the world where crops (such as cotton) are grown ▪ a southern *plantation* ✧ Because slaves worked on cotton plantations in the southern U.S. in the past, the word *plantation* is often associated with the history of slavery in the U.S. ▪ He compared the situation of black college basketball players to the *plantation*. [=compared the college basketball system to slavery]

2 : a group of trees that have been planted together ▪ a *plantation* of pines

plant·er /ˈplæntɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a container in which plants are grown ▪ She bought a *planter* to put on their deck. ▪ a hanging *planter*

2 : a person who owns a plantation ▪ a wealthy South American *planter*

3 : a machine that plants seeds in the ground

plaque /ˈplæk/ *noun, pl* **plaques**

1 [*count*] : a flat, thin piece of metal or wood with writing on it that is used especially as a reminder of something (such as a historic event or an achievement) ▪ A bronze *plaque* marked the city's oldest building. ▪ They gave him a *plaque* in honor of his 30 years of service.

2 a [*noncount*] : a thin coating that forms on teeth and contains bacteria ▪ Brushing your teeth prevents the buildup of *plaque*. **b** [*count*] *medical* : a change in brain tissue that occurs in Alzheimer's disease ▪ The scientists are studying the way the *plaques* form. **c** [*noncount*] *medical* : a harmful material that can form in arteries and be a cause of heart disease

plas·ma /ˈplæzmə/ *noun, pl* **-mas**

1 [*noncount*] *medical* : the watery part of blood that contains blood cells

2 [*noncount*] *technical* : a substance that is similar to a gas but that can carry electricity ▪ the *plasma* that makes up a star

3 a [*noncount*] : a type of visual display for computers, tele-

visions, etc., that uses plasma with electrical charges between two sheets of glass and that produces pictures that are very clear and bright — usually used before another noun ▪ a *plasma* screen/TV **b** [*count*] : a television with a plasma screen ▪ Our new TV is a 50-inch *plasma*.

[1]plas•ter /ˈplæstɚ, *Brit* ˈplɑːstə/ *noun, pl* **-ters**

1 [*noncount*] **a** : a wet substance that hardens when it becomes dry and that is used to make smooth walls and ceilings — often used before another noun ▪ *plaster* walls **b** : PLASTER OF PARIS

2 [*count*] *Brit* : a piece of material that is put on the skin over a small wound

in plaster *Brit* : in a hard covering that protects a broken bone and allows it to heal : in a plaster cast ▪ Her arm is *in plaster*.

[2]plaster *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to cover (a surface) with plaster ▪ We *plastered* and sanded the walls before painting them. **b** : to cover (a surface or area) *with* something ▪ They *plastered* the walls *with* posters. — usually used as *(be) plastered* ▪ The walls *were plastered with* posters. ▪ The Web page *is plastered with* ads.

2 : to put (something, such as a poster or sign) *on* a surface ▪ Someone had *plastered* a political poster *on* the wall. — often used figuratively ▪ He had a silly smile *plastered on* his face. [=he was smiling in a silly way]

3 : to make (something) lie flat against or stick to something ▪ His clothes were *plastered* to his body from the rain. ▪ He *plastered* his hair down/back with gel.

plaster over [*phrasal verb*] ***plaster over (something) or plaster (something) over*** : to cover (something) with plaster ▪ We *plastered over* the holes and cracks in the wall.

plas•ter•board /ˈplæstɚˌbɔɚd, *Brit* ˈplɑːstəˌbɔːd/ *noun* [*noncount*] : building material that is used for making walls and ceilings and that is made of large sheets of plaster covered with thick paper : DRYWALL

plaster cast *noun, pl* ~ **casts** [*count*]

1 : [2]CAST 2 ▪ She had a *plaster cast* on her leg.

2 : a copy of something made of plaster of paris ▪ The mask was made from a *plaster cast* of his face.

plastered *adj, not used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : very drunk ▪ I got/was totally *plastered* at the party.

plas•ter•er /ˈplæstɚɚ, *Brit* ˈplɑːstərə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person whose job is to put plaster on walls and ceilings

plaster of par•is *or* **plaster of Paris** /-ˈperəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a white powder that is mixed with water to form a paste which hardens quickly and which is used for making decorations, plaster casts, etc.

[1]plas•tic /ˈplæstɪk/ *noun, pl* **-tics**

1 : a light, strong substance that can be made into different shapes and that is used for making many common products [*noncount*] The toy was made of *plastic*. [*count*] a company that manufactures *plastics*

2 [*noncount*] *informal* : a credit card when used for payment ▪ She used *plastic* to pay for her new computer.

[2]plastic *adj*

1 : made or consisting of plastic ▪ *plastic* dishes/toys ▪ a *plastic* bag/bottle/bin/container ▪ a *plastic* bullet [=a bullet made of plastic that is used by the police, military, etc., to stop violent people without killing them] — see also PLASTIC WRAP

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : not real or sincere ▪ a politician with a *plastic* [=*fake*] smile

3 *technical* : capable of being made into different shapes ▪ *plastic* clay

plastic explosive *noun, pl* ~ **-sives** [*count, noncount*] : an explosive that is made of a soft substance like clay that can be formed into different shapes ▪ a bomb made with *plastic explosives*

Plas•ti•cine /ˈplæstəˌsiːn/ *trademark* — used for a soft material that is like clay and that is used especially by children for making models of people, animals, etc.

plas•tic•i•ty /plæˈstɪsəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : the quality of being able to be made into different shapes ▪ the *plasticity* of clay

plastic surgeon *noun, pl* ~ **-geons** [*count*] : a doctor who performs plastic surgery

plastic surgery *noun* [*noncount*] : surgery that improves or repairs the form or appearance of body parts ▪ He needed *plastic surgery* on his face after the car accident.

plastic wrap *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : thin, clear plastic that is used to wrap food or to cover containers that have food in them — called also (*Brit*) *cling film*

[1]plate /ˈpleɪt/ *noun, pl* **plates**

1 [*count*] **a** : a flat and usually round dish that is used for eating or serving food ▪ *plates*, bowls, and cups ▪ a paper *plate* ▪ fancy dinner/salad/bread/dessert *plates* ▪ a large serving *plate* [=*platter*] ▪ pie *plates* [=plates used to hold pies] — see picture at PLACE SETTING **b** : the food that is served on a plate ▪ a *plate* of cheese and crackers ▪ a fruit/vegetable/meat *plate* [=a plate filled with different fruits/vegetables/meats] ▪ I ate a salad and a *plate* of spaghetti.

2 [*count*] : a thin, flat piece of metal ▪ A shiny metal *plate* was screwed to the door. ▪ He had a steel *plate* put in his shoulder after the accident. ▪ a *plate* of armor — see also BREASTPLATE, NAMEPLATE

3 [*count*] : LICENSE PLATE — usually plural ▪ a car with New York *plates*

4 [*count*] : one of the usually flat, hard pieces that cover the body of some animals ▪ a dinosaur covered in bony *plates*

5 [*singular*] : a dish or small container used in some churches to collect money ▪ They passed around the *plate* during services. ▪ the collection *plate*

6 *the plate* *baseball* : HOME PLATE ▪ The runner was tagged out at *the plate*. — see also STEP UP TO THE PLATE (below)

7 [*count*] *geology* : one of the very large sections of the Earth's surface that are believed to move and cause earthquakes where they touch each other — see also PLATE TECTONICS

8 [*noncount*] **a** : metal that is covered with a thin layer of gold or silver ▪ gold/silver *plate* **b** : objects (such as dishes, knives, forks, etc.) that are covered with a thin layer of gold or silver ▪ The dishes were solid silver, not *plate*.

9 [*count*] : a special page in a book that has pictures on it ▪ The book is 500 pages long and contains over 50 color *plates*. — see also BOOKPLATE

10 [*count*] : a surface of metal, plastic, or wood that is used in printing words or pictures on paper ▪ printing *plates*

11 [*count*] : a sheet of glass or plastic that is treated with a special chemical and used in photography ▪ photographic *plates*

12 [*count*] : the part of a set of false teeth that attaches to the mouth ▪ the upper/lower *plate* of a set of dentures

clean your plate see [2]CLEAN

on a plate *informal* : in a way that requires no effort : as a gift ▪ He was handed the job *on a plate*. [=he was given the job without having to do anything to earn it] ▪ The victory was handed to us *on a plate*.

on your plate *informal* — used to refer to the things that a person has to do or deal with at one time ▪ She has a lot *on her plate* right now. [=she has a lot of things that she has to deal with right now] ▪ I've got enough *on my plate* to keep me busy this summer.

step up to the plate *baseball* : to move into position next to home plate in order to bat — often used figuratively in U.S. English ▪ He finally *stepped up to the plate* [=he finally took action] and asked her to marry him. ▪ If you want this promotion, you're going to have to *step up to the plate*. [=you will have to improve your work performance to show that you deserve the promotion]

– see also FASHION PLATE

[2]plate *verb* **plates**; **plat•ed**; **plat•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to add a layer of metal to the outside of (something) — usually used as *(be) plated* ▪ The tin cups *were plated* with silver.

2 *baseball* : to cause (a run or a runner) to score ▪ His second hit *plated* [=*drove in*] two runs.

[1]pla•teau /plæˈtoʊ/ *noun, pl* **pla•teaus** *also* **pla•teaux** /plæˈtoʊz/ [*count*]

1 : a large flat area of land that is higher than other areas of land that surround it ▪ a *plateau* covering hundreds of miles ▪ the Colorado *Plateau* — see color picture on page C7

2 : a period when something does not increase or advance any further ▪ After several years of rapid growth, the company is now at a *plateau*. [=it has stopped growing] ▪ The price of gas seems to have reached a *plateau*.

[2]plateau *verb* **-teaus**; **-teaued**; **-teau•ing** [*no obj*] : to stop growing or increasing : to reach a plateau ▪ Sales of computers have *plateaued* in recent years.

plate•ful /ˈpleɪtˌfʊl/ *noun, pl* **-fuls** [*count*] : the amount of food that fills a plate ▪ two *platefuls* of salad

plate glass *noun* [*noncount*] : large sheets of very clear and thick glass — often used before another noun ▪ *plate glass* windows

plate•let /ˈpleɪtlət/ *noun, pl* **-lets** [*count*] : a small, round, thin blood cell that helps blood to stop flowing from a cut by

becoming thick and sticky — called also *blood platelet*

plate tectonics *noun* [*noncount*] *geology* : a scientific theory that the Earth's surface is made of very large sections that move very slowly; *also* : the movements of the large sections that form the Earth's surface ▪ earthquakes caused by *plate tectonics*

plat•form /ˈplætˌfoəm/ *noun, pl* **-forms** [*count*]

1 a : a flat surface that is raised higher than the floor or ground and that people stand on when performing or speaking ▪ a raised wooden *platform* ▪ He stepped up onto the *platform* and looked out into the audience. **b** : a flat area next to railroad tracks where people wait for a train or subway ▪ She stepped off the train onto the *platform*. ▪ Our train is boarding on *platform* 6. **c** : a usually raised structure that has a flat surface where people or machines do work ▪ a viewing/observation *platform* ▪ oil drilling *platforms*

2 : the official beliefs and goals of a political party or candidate ▪ political *platforms* ▪ the Republican/Democratic *platform* ▪ The party adopted a new *platform*. ▪ She was elected on a *platform* of peace. [=people elected her because she promised to work for peace] — compare PLANK

3 : something that allows someone to tell a large number of people about an idea, product, etc. ▪ The company plans to use the show as a *platform* to launch the new soft drink.

4 : a shoe with a very thick sole — usually plural ▪ In the 1970s, we all wore *platforms* and bell-bottom pants. — called also *platform shoe*

5 *computers* : a program or set of programs that controls the way a computer works and runs other programs : OPERATING SYSTEM ▪ The program can be run on various PC *platforms*.

plat•ing /ˈpleɪtɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : a thin layer of metal that has been added to the outside of something ▪ spoons covered in silver *plating*

2 : a layer of wide, thin pieces of metal ▪ armor *plating*

plat•i•num /ˈplætnəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a heavy, silver-colored metal that is difficult to melt and that is used especially in expensive jewelry

platinum blonde *or* **platinum blond** *noun, pl* ~ **blondes** *or* ~ **blonds** [*count*] : a person who has very light blonde hair ▪ She dyed her hair and now she's a *platinum blonde*.

– **platinum blonde** *or* **platinum blond** *adj* ▪ *platinum blonde* supermodels

platinum record *noun, pl* ~ **-cords** [*count*] : an award that is given to a singer or musical group for selling at least one million copies of a record — compare GOLD RECORD

plat•i•tude /ˈplætəˌtu:d, *Brit* ˈplætəˌtju:d/ *noun, pl* **-tudes** [*count*] *disapproving* : a statement that expresses an idea that is not new ▪ His speech was filled with familiar *platitudes* about the value of hard work and dedication.

– **plat•i•tu•di•nous** /ˌplætəˈtu:dnəs, *Brit* ˌplætəˈtju:dnəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* ▪ *platitudinous* remarks

pla•ton•ic /pləˈtɑ:nɪk/ *adj* : of, relating to, or having a close relationship in which there is no romance or sex ▪ They had a *platonic* friendship, not a romantic one. ▪ Our relationship was strictly *platonic*. ▪ *platonic* love

pla•toon /pləˈtu:n/ *noun, pl* **-toons** [*count*]

1 : a group of soldiers that includes two or more squads usually led by one lieutenant ▪ a *platoon* of soldiers

2 : a group of people who are doing something together ▪ *platoons* of waiters

plat•ter /ˈplætə/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*]

1 a : a large plate that is used for serving food and especially meat ▪ a silver *platter* **b** : the food that is served on a platter ▪ large *platters* of hot turkey and ham ▪ a *platter* [=*plate*] of cheese and crackers

2 : a meal in a restaurant that has a particular type of food ▪ The chicken *platter* comes with fries and coleslaw. ▪ She ordered the seafood *platter*.

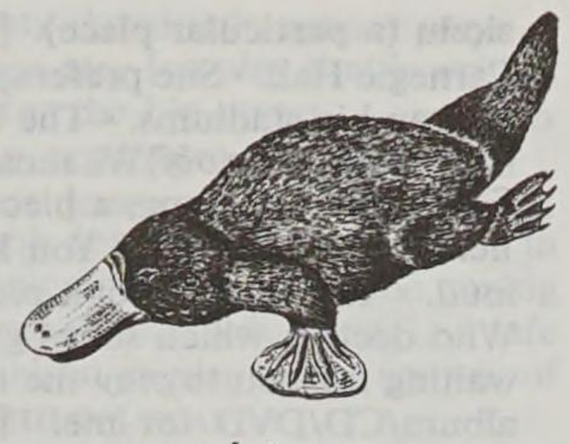
on a (silver) platter : in a way that requires no effort : as a gift ▪ He has had everything handed/given to him *on a silver platter*. [=he has not had to work for the things that he has; he is very lucky and has been given everything he has]

platy•pus /ˈplætɪpəs/ *noun, pl* **-pus•es** [*count*] : a small animal from Australia that has a bill like the bill of a duck, webbed feet, and a wide flat tail — called also *duck-billed platypus*

plau•dits /ˈplɑ:dəts/ *noun* [*plural*] *formal* : strong approval ▪ The book received the *plaudits* [=*acclaim*, *praise*] of the critics. ▪ He has earned/won *plaudits* for his work abroad.

plau•si•ble /ˈplɑ:zəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : possibly true : believable or realistic ▪ a *plausible* [=*possible*] conclusion ▪ a *plausible* excuse ▪ I thought her explanation was perfectly/entirely/completely *plausible*. [=I believed her explanation] — opposite IMPLAUSIBLE

– **plau•si•bil•i•ty** /ˌplɑ:zəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **plau•si•bly** /ˈplɑ:zəbli/ *adv* ▪ She *plausibly* [=*believably*] argued that she was innocent. ▪ Any of those things could *plausibly* happen.



platypus

[1]play /ˈpleɪ/ *verb* **plays; played; play•ing**

1 : to do activities for fun or enjoyment [*no obj*] The children were *playing* in the yard. ▪ Can Sara come out and *play*? ▪ He *played* by himself in his room. — often + *with* ▪ She's outside *playing with* her friends. ▪ You already have lots of toys to *play with*. ▪ a baby *playing with* his toes [+ *obj*] ✧ If children ***play teacher/school (etc.)***, they play by pretending to be adults. ▪ She likes to *play teacher/doctor* with her sisters. — see also *play house* at [1]HOUSE

2 a : to participate in (a game or sport) [+ *obj*] Did you *play* any sports in high school? ▪ She *plays* soccer. ▪ Do you want to *play* (a game of) cards/poker? ▪ No one dares to *play* chess with/against him. ▪ It's not whether you win or lose (that's important), it's how you *play* the game. ▪ The children were *playing* hide-and-seek. [*no obj*] I have a chess set. Do you want to *play*? ▪ It's your turn to *play*. ▪ She hurt her wrist but decided to continue *playing*. ▪ He *played* in every major tournament this year. ▪ He's always dreamed of *playing* on a professional hockey team. — often + *for* ▪ We never *play for* money. ▪ I'm on a basketball team at school, but I also ***play for fun*** with my friends. ✧ If you ***play for*** a particular team, you are a member of that team. ▪ Babe Ruth *played for* the Yankees. ▪ He used to *play for* Boston but got traded to New York. **b** : to compete against (someone) in a game [+ *obj*] The Yankees are *playing* the Red Sox tonight at Yankee Stadium. ▪ No one dares to *play* him at chess. ▪ When Tom and I are finished with this game, you can *play* the winner. [*no obj*] The Yankees and the Red Sox are *playing* at Yankee Stadium. ▪ She has *played* against some of the best tennis players in the world. ✧ If you ***play (someone) for (something)***, you play a game in which the winner will be able to take or keep something. ▪ "Is that the last can of soda?" "Yeah, I'll *play* you *for* it." **c** [+ *obj*] : to have (a particular position on a sports team) ▪ He dreamed about *playing* quarterback in the National Football League. ▪ She *played* center field in their last game. ▪ He *plays* third base. ▪ What position does he *play*? **d** [+ *obj*] : to allow (someone) to play during a game especially in a particular position ▪ Her coach didn't *play* her in yesterday's game. ▪ They decided to *play* him at first base. **e** [+ *obj*] : to place (a playing card) on the table during your turn in a card game ▪ I *played* the ace of hearts. — often used figuratively ▪ lawyers who *play* the race card to defend their clients [=who say that their clients were treated unfairly because of their race] — see also *play your cards close to the chest/vest* at [1]CARD, *play your cards right* at [1]CARD **f** [+ *obj*] : to move (a piece) during your turn in a chess game ▪ He *played* his rook/bishop/queen for the win. **g** [+ *obj*] : to hit, kick, throw, or catch (a ball, puck, etc.) ▪ You have to *play* the ball where it lies. ▪ He *played* a wedge shot to the green. ▪ He *played* a great shot to his opponent's forehand. ▪ The shortstop *played* the ball perfectly.

3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to bet money on (something) ▪ I used to gamble a lot. Mostly, I *played* the races/horses/slots. ▪ She only *plays* the lottery when there's a large jackpot. **b** : to invest money in (the stock market) in order to try to earn money ▪ You can lose a lot of money *playing* the (stock) market.

4 a : to perform music on (an instrument) [+ *obj*] She's been *playing* the violin since she was 10 years old. ▪ Where did you learn to *play* the piano? ▪ He can *play* guitar and drums. [*no obj*] He *played* while she sang. ▪ Would you *play* for us? ▪ He *plays* in a band. **b** [*no obj*] *of an instrument* : to produce music ▪ I could hear a guitar *playing* in the distance. **c** [+ *obj*] : to perform (a song, a piece of music, etc.) on an instrument ▪ Would you *play* something for us? ▪ The band *played* their new hit song. ▪ The conductor had us *play* the piece again from the beginning. ▪ The band *played* a waltz. ▪ She started her career *playing* country music. **d** [+ *obj*] : to perform music written by (a particular composer) ▪ The orchestra will be *playing* Mozart tonight. **e** : to perform mu-

sic in (a particular place) [+ *obj*] It was her dream to *play* Carnegie Hall. ▪ She prefers *playing* small concert halls rather than big stadiums. ▪ The band has been *playing* bars and nightclubs. [*no obj*] We mostly *play* in bars and nightclubs.

5 : to cause (a song, a piece of music, a movie, etc.) to be heard or seen [+ *obj*] You kids are *playing* your music too loud. ▪ The radio station *plays* mostly hip-hop and R&B. ▪ Who decides which songs get *played* on the radio? ▪ We're waiting for you to *play* the movie. ▪ I asked him to *play* the album/CD/DVD for me. [*no obj*] Our favorite song was *playing* on the radio. ▪ Classical music *played* softly in the background. ▪ The movie/DVD is already *playing*.

6 [*no obj*] : to be shown or performed usually more than one time ▪ The film is now *playing* [=is now being shown] in theaters across the country. ▪ What's *playing* at the theater/movies? ▪ The show has been *playing* to full/packed houses.

7 a [+ *obj*] : to act the part of (a particular character) in a film, play, etc. ▪ He *played* the lead role in *Hamlet*. ▪ Her character is being *played* by a relatively unknown actress. ▪ She's not a doctor, but she *plays* one on TV. — often used figuratively ▪ My wife never disciplines the children. She gets to *play* the good guy while I have to *play* the bad guy. [=I have to discipline the children] ▪ I survived a terrible tragedy, but I don't want to *play* the victim. [=I don't want to act like a victim] — often used with *part* or *role* ▪ Luck *played* an important *part* in their success. [=a lot of their success was because of luck] ▪ The essay discusses the *role* that television *plays* in modern society. [=the effect that television has on modern society] ▪ He's been ***playing the part/role*** of the jealous husband. [=he has been acting like a jealous husband] ▪ We all ***have a part/role to play*** in the future of this company. [=we all will be involved in an important way in the future of this company] — see also ROLE-PLAY **b** [*no obj*] : to pretend that you have a particular quality or are in a particular condition ▪ Don't *play* [=*act*] all innocent with me! ▪ She tried to teach her dog to ***play dead*** [=to lie on its back and pretend to be dead] ▪ If anyone asks you about it, ***play dumb*** [=act like you do not know anything about it]

8 : to act or behave in a particular way [*no obj*] It's a very competitive business, and not everyone *plays* fair. = Not everyone *plays* by the rules. ▪ If you *play* smart [=if you make good decisions], you should be able to graduate in four years. [+ *obj*] She didn't want to seem too eager, so she decided to ***play it cool*** [=to act calm] ▪ If you ***play it smart***, you should be able to graduate in four years. ▪ I decided to ***play it safe*** [=to be careful and avoid risk or danger] and leave early so that I would be sure to arrive on time. — see also *play by ear* at ¹EAR

9 [*no obj*] : to do or say things in a joking way ▪ Don't take it so seriously. He was just *playing*. [=*kidding*, *joking*] — often + *around* ▪ I was just *playing around*. I didn't really mean it. ▪ Stop *playing around* and talk to me seriously for a moment.

10 [+ *obj*] : to do (something) to someone in order to amuse yourself or others ▪ He's known for *playing* pranks, so I wouldn't trust him if I were you. — usually + *on* ▪ Let's *play* a joke *on* her. ▪ The students got in trouble for *playing* a trick *on* their teacher. ▪ I can't believe what I'm seeing. My eyes must be *playing* tricks *on* me.

11 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to use or control (someone or something) in a clever and unfair way ▪ I'm never going to let anyone *play* me again. ▪ She *played* you like a fool. — often + *for* ▪ She realized too late that she had been *played for* a fool. ▪ They had been *playing* the guy *for* a sucker all along.

12 [+ *obj*] : to base a decision or action on (something) ▪ Sometimes you just have to *play* your luck [=to take a chance] and hope that everything turns out okay. ▪ The coach was *playing* the odds that his pitcher would get through the inning without giving up a run. ▪ Criminal investigators need to *play* [=to act on] their hunches.

13 [*no obj*] *US* : to be accepted or received in a particular way ▪ The script looked good on paper but didn't *play* well on Broadway. — often + *with* ▪ His idea did not *play* well *with* the committee. [=the committee did not like his idea]

14 [*no obj*] : to move in a lively and irregular way ▪ A knowing smile *played* on/about her lips. ▪ We watched the moonlight *playing* on the water.

play along [*phrasal verb*] : to agree to do or accept what other people want ▪ They wanted me to cooperate with them, but I refused to *play along*. [=*go along*] ▪ If I pretend to be sick, will you *play along* and tell everyone that I had to go to the doctor? — often + *with* ▪ I refused to *play along with* them. ▪ Will you *play along with* my plan?

play around *also Brit* ***play about*** [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to have sex with someone who is not your husband, wife, or regular partner ▪ He's not the kind of guy who *plays around*. [=*fools around*, *messes around*] — often + *on* ▪ She's been *playing around on* her husband. — often + *with* ▪ She's been *playing around with* one of her coworkers. **2** : to deal with or treat something in a careless way ▪ When it comes to protecting his family, he doesn't *play around*. [=*fool around*, *mess around*] — often + *with* ▪ You can't *play around with* diabetes; it's a very serious disease. **3** : to use or do something in a way that is not very serious ▪ It's time to stop *playing around* [=*fooling around*] and get busy. — often + *on* ▪ I spent the evening *playing around on* the piano/computer/Internet. — often + *with* ▪ I'm not really a painter; I just like to *play around with* paints. **4** ***play around with (something)*** : to move or change (something) or to think about (something) in different ways often in order to find out what would work best ▪ I see you've been *playing around with* the living room furniture again. ▪ The supervisor *played around with* our work schedules this week. ▪ We *played around with* the idea for a while but eventually realized that it just wouldn't work. — see also ¹PLAY 9 (above)

play at [*phrasal verb*] ***play at (something)*** **1** : to do (something) in a way that is not serious ▪ They were only *playing at* trying to fix the problem. **2** *chiefly Brit* : to play by pretending to be (someone or something) ▪ (*Brit*) She liked to *play at* doctors and nurses as a child. — often used in the phrase ***play at being (something)*** ▪ boys *playing at being* soldiers **3** *Brit* — used to say in an annoyed way that you do not know the reason for someone's behavior ▪ What is he *playing at*? ▪ I have no idea what he was *playing at*.

play back [*phrasal verb*] ***play back (something)*** *or* ***play (something) back*** : to cause (recorded sounds or pictures) to be heard or seen ▪ The machine allows you to record and *play back* sounds. ▪ We finished recording our first take and *played* it *back* to hear how it sounded. ▪ He *played* the tape *back* to/for us. — see also PLAYBACK

play ball see ¹BALL

play down [*phrasal verb*] ***play down (something)*** *or* ***play (something) down*** : to make (something) seem smaller or less important ▪ She *played down* [=*downplayed*] her role in the research. ▪ It was a significant mistake though our CEO tried to *play* it *down*.

play fast and loose : to behave in a clever and dishonest way — usually + *with* ▪ He was accused of *playing fast and loose with* the truth. [=of being dishonest] ▪ reporters *playing fast and loose with* the facts

play for laughs *or* ***play (something) for laughs*** : to act in a funny way that makes people laugh ▪ She's fantastic in serious roles, but she also knows how to *play for laughs*. ▪ Most performers would have taken a serious tone during the scene, but he decided to *play* it *for laughs*.

play for time : to try to make something happen later instead of sooner : to try to delay something ▪ They're just *playing for time*, hoping that the situation will resolve itself.

play games see ¹GAME

play God *usually disapproving* : to make decisions that have a very powerful and important effect on other people's lives ▪ lawyers who *play God* with people's lives

play hard to get : to pretend that you are not interested in having a romantic or sexual relationship with someone in order to make that person more attracted to you ▪ She's been *playing hard to get*, but I can tell that she likes me.

play into [*phrasal verb*] ***play into (something)*** : to help support (something, such as an idea) ▪ This new evidence *plays into* their theory quite nicely. ▪ Her methods *play into* the stereotype that lawyers are dishonest.

play into someone's hands *or* ***play into the hands of someone*** : to do something that you do not realize will hurt you and help someone else ▪ You're only *playing into their hands* by making such ridiculous accusations.

play off [*phrasal verb*] **1** *chiefly Brit* : to participate in a game that decides a winner from people or teams that had the same results in an earlier game : to play in a play-off ▪ The two teams *played off* for third place. — see also PLAY-OFF **2** ***play off (someone or something)*** *US* : to react to (someone or something) in a pleasing way : to combine with (someone or something) in a way that makes each part better ▪ In this scene, the two actors *play off* each other extremely well. ▪ The sweetness of the wine *plays off* the sharp flavor of the cheese. **3** ***play (someone or something) off against (someone or something)*** : to cause two people or groups to fight or compete with each other in a

way that helps you ▪ They have been *playing* him *off against* his old enemies. [=causing him to fight with his old enemies] ▪ He *played* one side *off against* the other.

play on** also **play upon [*phrasal verb*] ***play on/upon (something)*** : to make people do what you want by using (their emotions, fears, concerns, etc.) in an unfair way ▪ The company *plays on* [=*takes advantage of*] the concerns of parents in order to sell their products. ▪ Politicians often win votes by *playing on* [=*exploiting*] people's emotions.

play out [*phrasal verb*] **1 a** : to happen or occur in usually a gradual way ▪ Let's wait and see how things *play out*. [=*take place, develop*] ▪ The consequences of the error will *play out* for several years to come. ▪ Their personal tragedy was being *played out* in public. **b** ***play out (something)*** *or* ***play (something) out*** : to make (something) happen ▪ She got to *play out* [=*realize*] her fantasy of being on TV. ▪ We watch professional athletes *play out* [=*act out, live out*] our dreams on the field. ▪ This scene ***plays itself out*** [=*happens*] daily in every large city in this country. **2** ***play out (something)*** *or* ***play (something) out*** : to finish (something) ▪ Her coach let her *play out* the rest of the season but said she wouldn't be allowed on the team next year. ▪ We'll stop the game after we *play out* this hand. ▪ *playing out* dangerous experiments ▪ That style of music had ***played itself out*** [=stopped being current or popular] and the record companies wanted something new. — see also PLAYED-OUT

play the field : to have romantic or sexual relationships with more than one person at a time : to date more than one person ▪ He wanted to *play the field* a bit before he got married and settled down.

play the fool see [1]FOOL

play to [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***play to (someone or something)*** : to behave or perform in a particular way for (someone or something) in order to get approval or attention ▪ He didn't mean what he was saying. He was just ***playing to the crowd***. ▪ He loves publicity and ***plays to the cameras*** every chance he gets. **2** ***play to (something)*** : to make use of (something) ▪ a film that *plays to* stereotypes of housewives ▪ In his latest album, he once again *plays to* his strengths as a classical musician.

play to the gallery see GALLERY

play up [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***play up (something) or play (something) up*** **a** : to talk about or treat (something) in a way that gives it special importance : to emphasize or stress (something) ▪ During the interview, try to play down your weaknesses and *play up* your strengths. **b** : to make (something) seem bigger or more important ▪ It was only a small achievement though our CEO tried to *play* it *up*. **2** ***play up*** *or* ***play (someone) up*** *Brit* : to cause problems or pain ▪ The children have been *playing up* [=*misbehaving, acting up*] again. ▪ The camera started *playing up* [=*acting up*] after I dropped it. ▪ Whenever it rains, my arthritis starts *playing up*. [=*acting up*] ▪ My back has been *playing* me *up* again.

play with [*phrasal verb*] ***play with (something)*** **1** : to move or handle (something) with your hands or fingers often without thinking ▪ She *played with* her hair while she talked on the phone. ▪ Stop *playing with* your food and eat. **2** : to handle, change, or deal with (something) in a careless way ▪ I *played* [=*fiddled, messed*] *with* the radio for a while but couldn't get it to work. ▪ It's important to teach your children not to *play with* guns/fire/matches. ▪ Don't *play with* [=*play around with*] my heart/emotions. ▪ You have to take this seriously. You're *playing with* people's lives! ▪ They're *playing with* other people's money. **3** : to think about (something) briefly and not very seriously ▪ Management has been *playing with* [=*toying with*] the idea of moving to a different building. ▪ I *played with* the idea of moving to Chicago but ended up staying in New York.

play with fire : to do something that is risky or dangerous ▪ People who use drugs are *playing with fire*.

play with words/language : to use words that sound similar or that have several different meanings especially in a clever or funny way ▪ a writer who enjoys *playing with words*

play with yourself : to touch your own sex organs for sexual pleasure : MASTURBATE

[2]play *noun, pl* **plays**

1 [*count*] : a piece of writing that tells a story through the actions and words of characters and that is performed on a stage ▪ The *play* is based on a real-life event. ▪ He wrote, directed, and starred in the *play*. ▪ *plays* by Shakespeare ▪ His fifth grade class is ***putting on a play*** about the first Thanksgiving. ▪ I've gone to all of my daughter's ***school plays***. ▪ She's currently adapting a ***stage play*** [=a play that is written to be performed on a stage] for the big screen. — see also MYSTERY PLAY, PASSION PLAY, SCREENPLAY

2 [*noncount*] : activities that are done especially by children for fun or enjoyment ▪ The book discusses the role of *play* in a child's development. ▪ imaginative *play* ▪ As the saying goes, "All work and no *play* makes Jack a dull boy." ▪ a safe *play* area ▪ the sounds of children ***at play*** [=the sounds of children playing] — see also CHILD'S PLAY

3 a [*noncount*] : the action that happens during a game ▪ Please, no talking during *play*. ▪ Rain held up *play* for an hour. ▪ The chess match finally ended after three hours of *play*. ▪ The two golfers were tied at the start of *play* yesterday. ▪ We were surprised with/by the other team's level/quality of *play*. **b** : the time when a person playing a game is supposed to do something [*count*] It's your *play*. [=(more commonly) *turn*] [*noncount*] Roll the dice to determine the order of *play*. [=to decide who plays first, second, etc.]

4 [*count*] *US* : a particular action or set of actions that happens during a game: such as **a** *American football* : a planned attempt to move the ball forward or to stop an opponent from moving the ball forward ▪ The quarterback called out the *play* to his teammates. ▪ He ran 50 yards on that last *play*. ▪ running/passing *plays* ▪ a defensive/offensive *play* **b** *baseball* : an action that is done to try to get a player out ▪ He was called safe on a close *play* at first base. — often used with *make* ▪ The shortstop *made* a great *play* to end the inning. ▪ She had a chance to catch the ball, but she failed to *make* the *play*. — see also DOUBLE PLAY, TRIPLE PLAY **c** : the act of moving a piece in a game like chess or checkers ▪ the first/opening *play* [=*move*] of the game

5 [*noncount*] : the state of being active or having an effect ▪ the *play* of market forces ▪ She promotes the free *play* of ideas in her classroom. ▪ Several issues are ***at play*** [=are involved] in determining the price of gasoline. ▪ The students' creativity was ***brought/called/put into play*** on this last assignment. [=the students had to use their creativity] ▪ Two important factors ***come into play***. [=are involved]

6 [*noncount*] **a** : time when a musical recording is played by a radio station : AIRPLAY ▪ The song has been getting heavy radio *play*. [=radio stations have been playing the song frequently] **b** *US* : attention in newspapers, on television, etc. ▪ The story has so far received little *play* in the press. [=has not gotten much attention in the press]

7 [*count*] : a humorous or clever way of using a word or phrase so that more than one meaning is suggested — + *on* ▪ The title of the article makes a *play on* the prime minister's last name. ▪ a *play on* the word's original meaning ▪ a clever ***play on words*** [=*pun*] — see also WORDPLAY

8 [*noncount*] **a** : a function of a machine that causes recorded sounds or pictures to be heard or seen ▪ Press "*Play*" to start the movie. **b** : time when a machine is being used to hear or see recorded sounds or pictures ▪ The CD player's batteries only provided three to four hours of *play*.

9 [*singular*] : the irregular or lively movement *of* something ▪ Look at the dazzling *play of* colors in this diamond. ▪ a *play of* shadow and light

10 [*noncount*] : loose and free movement of something (such as part of a machine) ▪ There's too much *play* in the car's steering wheel.

in/into play *of a ball* : in or into the area where players must stay in sports ▪ She tried to keep the ball *in play*, but it bounced out of bounds. ▪ He put the ball back *into play*.

make a play for : to try to get (someone or something) ▪ He *made a play for* her. [=he tried to start a romantic or sexual relationship with her] ▪ She *made a play for* the job, but she didn't get it.

out of play *of a ball* : outside the area where players must stay in sports ▪ The ball is *out of play* [=*dead*] if it crosses these lines.

– see also FAIR PLAY, FOUL PLAY, POWER PLAY

play•able /ˈplejəbəl/ *adj*

1 : capable of being played ▪ The ball was out-of-bounds and no longer *playable*. ▪ Many older computer games aren't *playable* on the new system. ▪ The violin they found in the attic was old but still *playable*.

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : suitable for being played on ▪ The field was muddy but *playable*. ▪ Changes have been made to make the golf course more *playable*.

play•act•ing /ˈpleɪˌæktɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : behavior that is not honest or sincere ▪ The company was losing money,

but all of the *playacting* had people believing that it was doing well.

play–action pass *noun, pl* ~ **passes** [*count*] *American football* : a play in which the quarterback pretends to hand the ball to a runner before passing it to another player

play·back /'pleɪˌbæk/ *noun, pl* **-backs**

1 [*noncount*] : the act of causing recorded sounds or pictures to be heard or seen again ▪ devices used for the *playback* of audio/video recordings = *playback* devices

2 [*count*] : a recording that is heard or seen again : a recording that is played back ▪ The band listened to a *playback* of their first recording. — see also *play back* at ¹PLAY

play·bill /'pleɪˌbɪl/ *noun, pl* **-bills** [*count*] : a poster or piece of paper that advertises a play

play·book /'pleɪˌbʊk/ *noun, pl* **-books** [*count*] *American football* : a book that contains descriptions of the different offensive and defensive plays that are used by a team ▪ He studied the new plays in the team's *playbook*. — often used figuratively in U.S. English ▪ They began to fight the war using the enemy's *playbook*. ▪ The competition beat us using a play straight from our own *playbook*.

play·boy /'pleɪˌbɔɪ/ *noun, pl* **-boys** [*count*] : a man who spends most of his time doing things that give him pleasure ▪ She was dating a rich American *playboy* who was seeing two other women at the same time.

play–by–play /'pleɪˌbaɪˌpleɪ/ *noun, pl* **-plays** *US* : a description of a game that is given while the game is being played [*count*] I listened to a *play-by-play* of the game. [*noncount*] a broadcaster who does *play-by-play*

– **play–by–play** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *play-by-play* announcer/commentator/account — sometimes used figuratively ▪ He gave the jury a *play-by-play* analysis of the videotape.

play·date /'pleɪˌdeɪt/ *noun, pl* **-dates** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a time that parents arrange for their young children to play together ▪ She has a *playdate* with a friend from kindergarten.

played–out *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : no longer current, popular, or effective ▪ *played-out* ideas — see also *play out* at ¹PLAY

play·er /'pleɪə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a person who plays a sport or game ▪ She's one of the team's best *players*. ▪ a star baseball *player* ▪ professional poker *players* — see also TEAM PLAYER

2 : a person who performs music usually on a particular instrument ▪ The band's lead guitar *player* hurt his hand and couldn't play. ▪ Piano *players* are called pianists.

3 : a machine that causes recorded sounds or pictures to be heard or seen ▪ a record/DVD/CD *player*

4 : a person who participates in a usually competitive field or activity ▪ She is a key/major/top *player* in genetics research. ▪ one of the industry's inside *players*

5 *old-fashioned* : an actor or actress ▪ a traveling band of *players* ▪ Even the movie's ***bit players*** [=people who perform very small roles] are excellent.

6 *US slang* : a person and especially a man who has sexual relationships with more than one person at the same time ▪ That guy's a *player*.

player piano *noun, pl* ~ **-nos** [*count*] : a piano that is played by a machine inside the piano

play·ful /'pleɪfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : happy and full of energy : eager to play ▪ She's an old dog, but she's still very *playful*. ▪ *playful* kittens

2 : showing that you are having fun and not being serious ▪ He had a *playful* expression on his face. ▪ a *playful* tone of voice ▪ You're certainly in a *playful* mood! ▪ She gave him a light *playful* slap on the knee.

– **play·ful·ly** *adv* – **play·ful·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

play·girl /'pleɪˌgɚl/ *noun, pl* **-girls** [*count*] : a woman who spends most of her time doing things that give her pleasure ▪ He's dating a rich, beautiful *playgirl*.

play·go·er /'pleɪˌgowɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who often goes to plays or who is at a particular play : THEATERGOER

play·ground /'pleɪˌgraʊnd/ *noun, pl* **-grounds** [*count*]

1 : an outdoor area where children can play that usually includes special equipment (such as swings and slides)

2 : a place where people go to do enjoyable things ▪ The island was a *playground* of the rich and famous until the 1950s. ▪ These mountains are a *playground* for hikers, skiers, and nature lovers.

play·group /'pleɪˌgru:p/ *noun, pl* **-groups** [*count*]

1 *US* : an organized group of young children and their parents that meet regularly so the children can play together

2 *Brit* : a school where children younger than five years old go to play and learn — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *play school*

play·house /'pleɪˌhaʊs/ *noun, pl* **-hous·es** [*count*]

1 : THEATER — usually used in names ▪ the Provincetown *Playhouse* in New York City

2 : a small house for children to play in — called also (*Brit*) *Wendy house*

playing card *noun, pl* ~ **cards** [*count*] : ¹CARD 1a

playing field *noun, pl* ~ **fields** [*count*] : an area that is used for playing some sports; *especially* : the part of a field that is officially marked as the place where the action of a game happens — see also LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

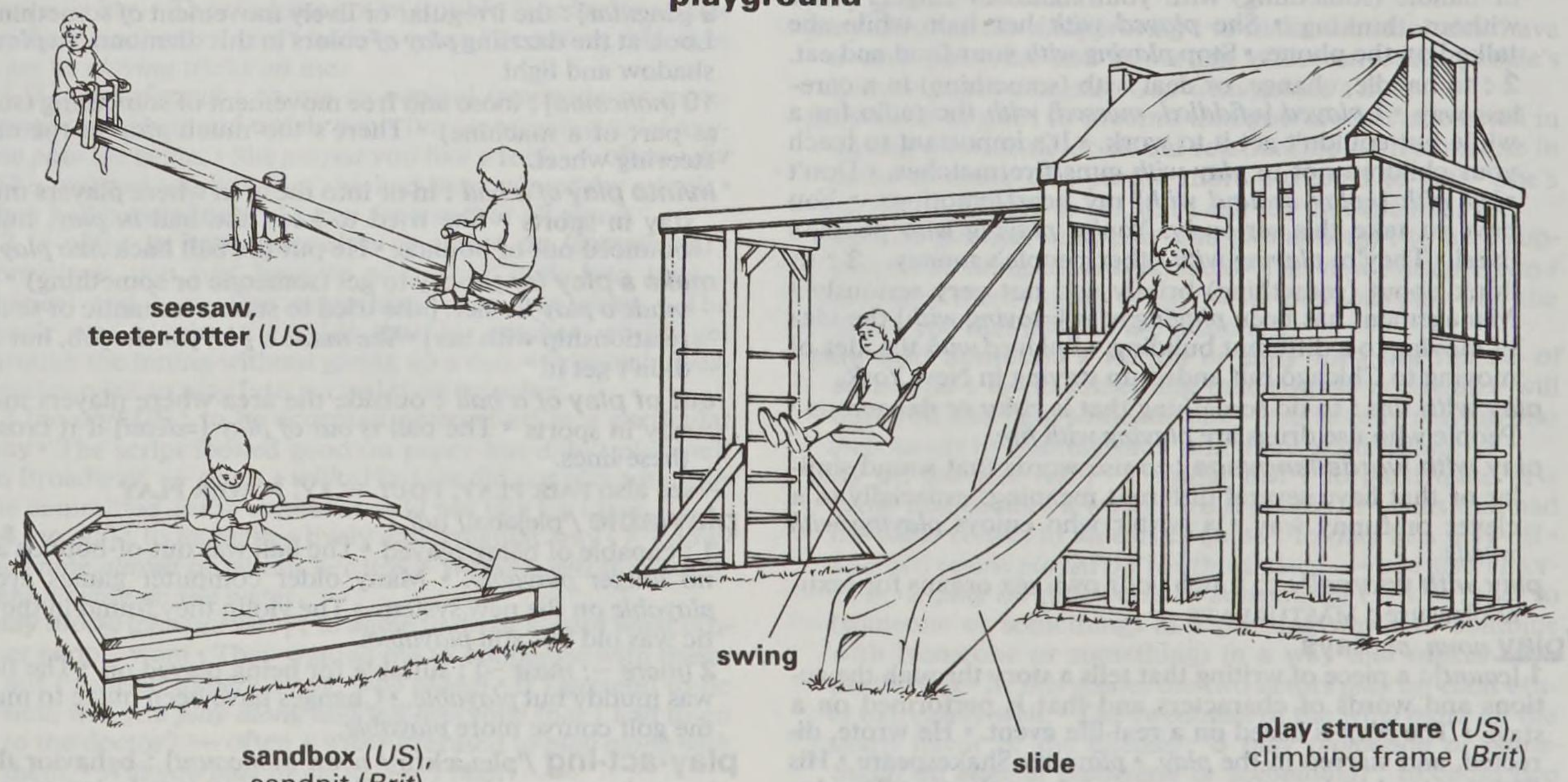
level the playing field see ³LEVEL

play·list /'pleɪˌlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-lists** [*count*] : a list of songs to be played especially by a radio station ▪ Most of the city's DJs have added the song to their *playlists*.

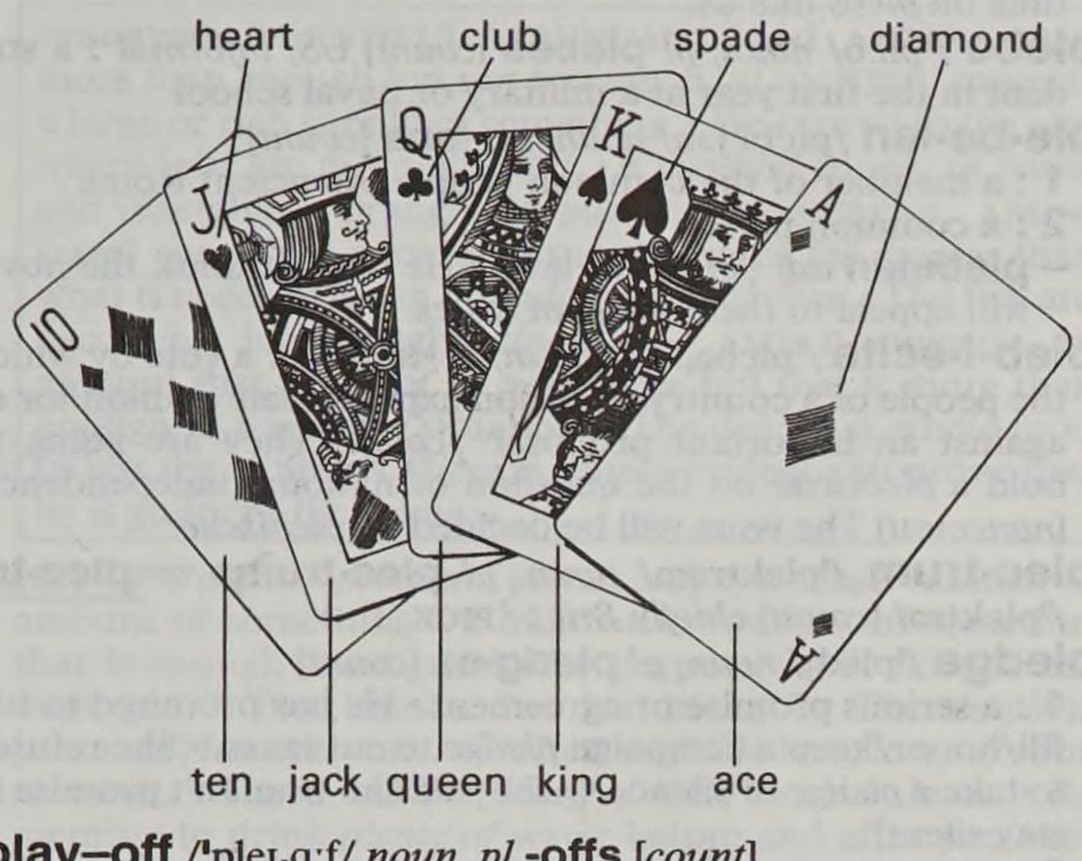
play·mak·er /'pleɪˌmeɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a skillful player in sports like basketball, soccer, and hockey who makes plays that help a team to score during games

play·mate /'pleɪˌmeɪt/ *noun, pl* **-mates** [*count*] : a friend with whom a child plays ▪ She was my *playmate* and best friend. ▪ He wasn't allowed to join his *playmates* outside.

playground



playing cards



play–off /ˈpleɪˌɑːf/ *noun, pl* **-offs** [*count*]
1 *US* : a series of games that is played after the end of the regular season in order to decide which player or team is the champion — usually plural ▪ The teams will once again face each other in the *play-offs*.
2 : a game or series of games that is played to decide the winner when people or teams are tied ▪ We tied the first day, but I beat her the next day in a *play-off*. ▪ an 18-hole *play-off* — see also *play off* at ¹PLAY

play•pen /ˈpleɪˌpɛn/ *noun, pl* **-pens** [*count*] : a structure with high sides that provides an enclosed area in which a baby or young child can play — called also (*US*) *play yard*

play•room /ˈpleɪˌruːm/ *noun, pl* **-rooms** [*count*] : a room for children to play in ▪ Their basement has a *playroom*.

play school *noun, pl* ~ **schools** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : PLAYGROUP 2

play structure *noun, pl* ~ **-tures** [*count*] *US* : a structure that is designed for children to climb on for fun and that often includes a slide — called also (*Brit*) *climbing frame*; see picture at PLAYGROUND

play•thing /ˈpleɪˌθɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-things** [*count*]
1 : a toy ▪ a child's *plaything* ▪ VCRs were once the expensive, high-tech *playthings* of the rich.
2 : a person or thing that you treat in a careless way and use for your own amusement or advantage ▪ We mustn't let the environment become the *plaything* of oil companies. ▪ The emperor used people as his *playthings*.

play•time /ˈpleɪˌtaɪm/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a time to play and have fun ▪ She has a little *playtime* in the morning before she goes to school. ▪ This isn't *playtime*; get to work!
2 *Brit* : RECESS ▪ The children have *playtime* after lunch.

play•wright /ˈpleɪˌraɪt/ *noun, pl* **-wrights** [*count*] : a person who writes plays : DRAMATIST

play•writ•ing *also US* **play•wright•ing** /ˈpleɪˌraɪtɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the activity of writing plays ▪ He gave classes in *playwriting* and poetry. ▪ a *playwriting* course

play yard *noun, pl* ~ **yards** [*count*] *US* : PLAYPEN

pla•za /ˈplɑːzə/ *noun, pl* **-zas** [*count*]
1 : an open public area that is usually near city buildings and that often has trees and bushes and places to sit, walk, and shop ▪ They put his statue in the town's *plaza*.
2 *chiefly US* : SHOPPING CENTER
3 *US* **a** : an area on or next to a highway having restaurants, gas stations, restrooms, etc. ▪ a rest/information/service *plaza* **b** : a place where you stop to pay money before going onto a highway — called also *toll plaza*

plea /ˈpliː/ *noun, pl* **pleas** [*count*]
1 : a serious and emotional request for something ▪ We are making a *plea* to all companies to stop polluting the environment. — often + *for* ▪ No one heard his *pleas for* help. ▪ the prisoner's passionate/desperate/fervent *plea for* mercy
2 *law* **a** : a statement in which a person who has been accused of a crime says in court that he or she is guilty or not guilty of the crime ▪ The defendant entered a *plea* of not guilty. ▪ a guilty *plea* **b** : a statement in which a person says that he or she is guilty of a particular crime : a plea of guilty ▪ She and her lawyers accepted a lesser *plea* [=they said that she was guilty of a less serious crime] of manslaughter. **c** : a reason or excuse for committing a crime ▪ He murdered his wife and got off on an ***insanity plea***. [=the court said that he was not guilty because he was insane]
cop a plea see ²COP

plea bargaining *noun* [*noncount*] : a process in which a person who is accused of a crime is allowed to say that he or she is guilty of a less serious crime in order to be given a less severe punishment ▪ As a result of *plea bargaining*, he would not be sentenced to death.
– **plea bargain** *noun, pl* ~ **-gains** [*count*] ▪ She could confess and be granted a *plea bargain*. ▪ He refused to accept a *plea bargain*. – **plea–bargain** *verb* **-gains**; **-gained**; **-gaining** [*no obj*] ▪ He *plea-bargained* to avoid spending time in jail.

plead /ˈpliːd/ *verb* **pleads**; **plead•ed** /ˈpliːdəd/ *or* **pled** /ˈplɛd/; **plead•ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to ask for something in a serious and emotional way ▪ He begged and *pleaded*, but she would not change her mind. — often + *for* ▪ She *pleaded* [=*begged*] *for* forgiveness and got her job back. ▪ *pleading for* help/mercy — often + *with* ▪ He *pleaded with* the judge not to send him to jail.
2 [+ *obj*] : to try to prove (a case) in a court of law ▪ She couldn't afford a lawyer to *plead* her case.
3 [*no obj*] : to say in court that you are either guilty or not guilty of a crime : to make a plea ▪ "How do you *plead*?" asked the judge. ▪ "We *plead* guilty, Your Honor." ▪ He *pled* not guilty by reason of insanity. [=he said in court that he was not responsible for the crime because he was insane] ▪ He agreed to *plead* to a lesser charge of manslaughter.
4 [+ *obj*] : to give (something) as a reason or excuse for something ▪ He *pleaded* that he didn't have enough money to pay his bill. ▪ On that particular issue, I will have to ***plead ignorance***. [=to say that I do not know anything about it]
5 : to argue in support of (a cause) [+ *obj*] They went to *plead* their cause to the governor. [*no obj*] We will *plead* on your behalf.
plead the Fifth see ¹FIFTH

pleading *noun, pl* **-ings**
1 : the act of asking for something in a serious and emotional way [*noncount*] I'm tired of their begging and *pleading*. [*count*] Despite our *pleadings* to be allowed to leave, they kept us there for several more hours.
2 [*count*] *law* : one of the formal, usually written statements made by the two sides of a legal case in a court of law

plead•ing•ly /ˈpliːdɪŋli/ *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : in a way that shows that someone wants something very much ▪ He looked up at me *pleadingly*.

pleas•ant /ˈplɛznt/ *adj* **pleas•ant•er**; **-est** [*or more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : causing a feeling of happiness or pleasure ▪ the *pleasant* smell of cookies baking in the oven ▪ We had a *pleasant* conversation. ▪ Our evening together was *pleasant* but not very exciting. ▪ Have a *pleasant* day/afternoon/evening. ▪ I didn't know you were coming. What a ***pleasant surprise***!
2 : friendly and likable ▪ Their new teacher seems *pleasant* enough. ▪ a very *pleasant* young man
– **pleas•ant•ly** *adv* ▪ She smiled at him *pleasantly*. ▪ We were *pleasantly* surprised to see her there. – **pleas•ant•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

pleas•ant•ry /ˈplɛzntri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] *formal* : something (such as a greeting) that people say in order to be polite — usually plural ▪ After exchanging *pleasantries*, she brought me into her office to discuss the project.

¹please /ˈpliːz/ *adv*
1 a — used to ask for something in a polite way ▪ *Please* come in. ▪ *Please* bring your books with you to every class. ▪ Pass the salt, *please*. = Would you *please* pass the salt. ▪ I'll have a glass of red wine, *please*. ▪ *Please* don't leave the door open. ▪ Next, *please*! = Will the next person *please* come forward? **b** — used to show that a request is serious or important ▪ *Please*, God, help us. ▪ I beg you. *Please*, don't leave me here alone. ▪ Will everyone *please* be quiet and listen?
2 — used as a polite way of saying yes ▪ "Would you like some tea?" "*Please*." ▪ "How about a piece of cake?" "Yes, *please*."
3 *informal* — used to show that you do not agree with or believe something that was said ▪ Oh, *please*. You can't be serious! That makes no sense!

²please *verb* **pleas•es**; **pleased**; **pleas•ing**
1 : to make (someone) happy or satisfied [+ *obj*] He joined the football team to *please* his father. ▪ She enjoys *pleasing* others. ▪ Her parents were *pleased* by her decision. ▪ It *pleases* me to know that you liked the gift. ▪ They're very hard/easy to *please*. ▪ You can't *please* everyone. [*no obj*] — used in the

phrase ***to please*** ▪ She's always been eager *to please*. ▪ restaurants that aim *to please* ▪ All of their desserts are sure *to please*. [=everyone will like them] — opposite DISPLEASE

2 [*no obj*] : to make a choice about what to do, have, etc. ▪ Since he no longer lives with his parents, he's able to come and go as he *pleases*. [=to come and go whenever he wants to] ▪ There's no hurry. Stay as long as you *please*. [=as long as you want to stay] ▪ I can do whatever I *please*. [=*like*] ▪ You can ***do as you please***. [=you can do whatever you want/choose to do]

as you please *Brit, informal* — used to make a statement more forceful especially when describing behavior that is surprising ▪ She walked right in, bold *as you please*. [=in a very bold way]

if you please *old-fashioned + formal* **1** — used to make a polite request ▪ Follow me, *if you please*, and I'll show you to the garden. **2** — used to express your surprise or annoyance about something ▪ He insulted her, and then, *if you please* [=if you would believe it], asked for her help.

please yourself — used to say that you can do what you want to do ▪ "I'm going to skip the party tonight." "OK, *please yourself*." [=*suit yourself*]

pleased *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : happy or satisfied ▪ We're all *pleased* that you came. ▪ My father was ***none too pleased*** [=not pleased at all; very angry or unhappy] when he found out that my brother had wrecked the car. — often + *with* ▪ I'm *pleased with* the grade I got in the class. ▪ You look rather *pleased with* yourself. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ We are *pleased to announce* that the school has hired a new teacher. ▪ You'll be *pleased to learn* that you're getting a raise. ▪ "This is my friend, Jane." "(I'm) ***Pleased to meet you***."

(as) pleased as punch *informal* : very happy or satisfied ▪ We were *pleased as punch* that he decided to visit.

pleas•ing *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : good in a way that gives pleasure or enjoyment : attractive or appealing ▪ the *pleasing* [=*pleasant*] smell of freshly baked bread ▪ *pleasing* sounds/sights ▪ He wanted his kitchen to be both functional and aesthetically *pleasing*.

– **pleas•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ The meal was *pleasingly* simple.

plea•sur•able /ˈplɛʒərəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *somewhat formal* : causing a feeling of pleasure or enjoyment ▪ She has *pleasurable* [=*pleasant*] memories of her childhood. ▪ a *pleasurable* activity/experience

– **plea•sur•ably** /ˈplɛʒərəbli/ *adv* ▪ walking *pleasurably* along the beach

plea•sure /ˈplɛʒɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sures**

1 [*noncount*] **a** : a feeling of happiness, enjoyment, or satisfaction : a pleasant or pleasing feeling ▪ I paint for the sheer/pure *pleasure* of it. ▪ intense physical/sexual *pleasure* ▪ He smiled with *pleasure*. ▪ She gets *pleasure* from helping others. [=she enjoys helping others] ▪ She ***takes pleasure in*** [=*enjoys*] her work. ▪ His grandparents *took* great/special *pleasure in* seeing him graduate from college. **b** : activity that is done for enjoyment ▪ Is this trip for business or *pleasure*?

2 [*count*] : something or someone that causes a feeling of happiness, enjoyment, or satisfaction ▪ It's been a *pleasure* working with you. = You were a *pleasure* to work with. [=I enjoyed working with you] ▪ It would be my *pleasure* to help. [=I would be glad to help] ▪ It is a special *pleasure* for me to be here with you today. ▪ Now I can enjoy the ***simple pleasures*** of life, like spending time with my family. ▪ "Thanks for your help." "(It was) ***My pleasure***." [=I was happy to help] ▪ Dark chocolate is a ***guilty pleasure*** of mine. [=something that I enjoy even though it causes guilty feelings]

at someone's pleasure *or* ***at the pleasure of someone*** — used to say that something is done or can be done because someone wants it to be done ▪ The building can be converted to condominiums *at* the owner's *pleasure*. ▪ I serve *at the pleasure of* the president, and I will continue to serve as long as the president wants me to.

what's your pleasure? *informal* — used to ask what drink someone would like to be served

with pleasure — used to say that you are happy to do something for someone ▪ "Would you deliver a message for me?" "Yes, *with pleasure*."

pleat /ˈpli:t/ *noun, pl* **pleats** [*count*] : a fold in cloth that is made by folding the material onto itself ▪ Her skirt has *pleats* at the waist. — see color picture on page C16

– **pleat•ed** /ˈpli:təd/ *adj* ▪ a *pleated* skirt [=a skirt that has pleats]

pleb /ˈplɛb/ *noun, pl* **plebs** [*count*] *chiefly Brit, informal + disapproving* : an ordinary person who has low social status — usually plural ▪ They think they're too important to waste time on *plebs* like us.

plebe /ˈpli:b/ *noun, pl* **plebes** [*count*] *US, informal* : a student in the first year at a military or naval school

ple•be•ian /plɪˈbi:jən/ *noun, pl* **-ians** [*count*]

1 : a member of the common people of ancient Rome

2 : a common person

– **plebeian** *adj* ▪ *plebeian* laws ▪ He doesn't think the novel will appeal to their *plebeian* tastes.

pleb•i•scite /ˈplɛbəˌsaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-scites** : a vote by which the people of a country or region express their opinion for or against an important proposal [*count*] They are going to hold a *plebiscite* on the question of national independence. [*noncount*] The issue will be decided by *plebiscite*.

plec•trum /ˈplɛktrəm/ *noun, pl* **plec•trums** *or* **plec•tra** /ˈplɛktrə/ [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : [3]PICK 2

[1]pledge /ˈplɛʤ/ *noun, pl* **pledg•es** [*count*]

1 : a serious promise or agreement ▪ He has promised to fulfill/honor/keep a campaign *pledge* to cut taxes. ▪ She refused to take a *pledge* of silence. [=she said she wouldn't promise to stay silent]

2 : a promise to give money ▪ To make a *pledge* or donation, please call the charity's office. ▪ The company has made a *pledge* of over $3,000.

3 : something that you leave with another person as a way to show that you will keep your promise ▪ He left his car as a *pledge* that he would return with the money.

4 *US* : a person who has promised to join a college fraternity or sorority but who has not been officially accepted into the group ▪ Our sorority usually accepts 10 *pledges* each year.

the Pledge of Allegiance *US* : a formal promise of loyalty to the United States that groups of people say together ▪ The children recited *the Pledge of Allegiance*.

[2]pledge *verb* **pledges; pledged; pledg•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to formally promise to give or do (something) ▪ Her family *pledged* $100,000 toward the construction of a new school. ▪ He called to *pledge* money to the charity. ▪ We've all *pledged* (our) loyalty/support/allegiance to the organization. ▪ Every morning, we *pledge* allegiance to the flag. ▪ teenagers who have *pledged* not to start smoking ▪ During his campaign, he *pledged* that he would not raise taxes.

2 [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to formally promise something ▪ She *pledged* herself to silence. [=she promised that she would not say anything] ▪ The chefs are *pledged* to keep the restaurant's special recipe a secret.

3 [+ *obj*] : to give (something) as a way to show that you will keep your promise to someone ▪ He *pledged* his paintings as collateral/security for a loan.

4 *US* : to promise to join (a college fraternity or sorority) [+ *obj*] She *pledged* the sorority as a freshman. [*no obj*] A few of his friends *pledged* to/with fraternities.

ple•na•ry /ˈpli:nəri/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal*

1 : attended by all the people who have the right to attend ▪ A *plenary* meeting of the 500 members was held last summer. ▪ *plenary* sessions of the legislature

2 : complete in every way ▪ the *plenary* [=*absolute*] power of the federal government

pleni•po•ten•tia•ry /ˌplɛnəpəˈtɛnʃəri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] *technical* : a person (such as a diplomat) who has complete power to do business for a government

– **plenipotentiary** *adj* ▪ *plenipotentiary* powers

plen•i•tude /ˈplɛnəˌtu:d, *Brit* ˈplɛnəˌtju:d/ *noun, formal*

1 [*singular*] : a large number or amount of something ▪ She has gathered a *plenitude* of information on the topic. ▪ a *plenitude* of choices

2 [*noncount*] : the state of being full or complete ▪ a life of happiness and *plenitude* [=a life in which there is plenty of food, money, etc.]

plen•te•ous /ˈplɛntijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal + literary* : existing in large amounts : plentiful or abundant ▪ a *plenteous* [=*copious*] harvest

plen•ti•ful /ˈplɛntɪfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : present in large amounts ▪ When I was a teenager, jobs were *plentiful* [=there were plenty of jobs] and the economy was strong. ▪ Gasoline won't always be cheap and *plentiful*. ▪ Space is *plentiful* enough for several homes. ▪ *plentiful* amounts of rain ▪ Natural gas is a *plentiful* resource. ▪ Doctors and nurses are now ***in plentiful supply***. = There is now a *plentiful* supply of doctors and nurses.

2 : containing or giving large amounts of something ▪ These vegetables are a *plentiful* source of vitamins. ▪ *plentiful* [=*fruitful*] land

– **plen·ti·ful·ly** *adv* ▪ fruit growing *plentifully* on the trees

synonyms PLENTIFUL, ABUNDANT, and AMPLE mean more than enough but not too much. PLENTIFUL suggests a large or rich supply of something. ▪ We moved to the city where jobs are more *plentiful*. ▪ a *plentiful* supply of fruits and vegetables ▪ Oranges are *plentiful* this summer. ABUNDANT suggests a very large supply that is far greater than what is necessary. ▪ an *abundant* crop of corn ▪ The fish are becoming increasingly *abundant*. AMPLE suggests an amount that may not be very large but that is more than enough in a specific situation. ▪ The deer had *ample* food to last the winter. ▪ There is *ample* evidence to prove that he is guilty of the crime.

[1]plen·ty /ˈplɛnti/ *pronoun* [*noncount*] : a large number or amount of something : a number or amount of something that is enough for a particular purpose ▪ "Would you like more pie?" "No, thanks. I've had *plenty*." ▪ There's *plenty* [=*enough*] for everyone. — often + *of* ▪ He has *plenty of* room to work. ▪ There will be *plenty of* time to relax later. ▪ Remember to drink *plenty of* water before and after you exercise. ▪ He'll be in *plenty of* trouble when he gets home. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ There's *plenty to see* and do in the city. ▪ Your family has *plenty to be* thankful for. ▪ We always have *plenty to talk* about.

[2]plenty *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the state of having enough of the things that make life good and easy ▪ They thought of America as the land of *plenty*. ▪ Businesses tend to give more to charity in times of *plenty*. [=when they have more money] ▪ a season of *plenty*

in plenty — used to say that something is present or exists in large amounts ▪ She has the qualities of patience and courage *in plenty*. [=she has plenty of patience and courage]

[3]plenty *adv, informal* : to a great degree : more than enough ▪ We're *plenty* [=*very*] busy with the work we have already. ▪ It's *plenty* cold outside. ▪ There's *plenty* more where that came from. ▪ The car is *plenty* large enough to fit six people.

pleth·o·ra /ˈplɛθərə/ *noun* [*singular*] *formal* : a very large amount or number : an amount that is much greater than what is necessary ▪ A *plethora* of books have been written on the subject. ▪ a *plethora* of information

pleu·ri·sy /ˈplʊrəsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a serious and painful disease of the lungs

Plex·i·glas /ˈplɛksɪˌglæs/ *trademark* — used for sheets of strong, clear plastic

plex·us /ˈplɛksəs/ *noun* see SOLAR PLEXUS

pli·able /ˈplajəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : able to bend, fold, or twist easily : FLEXIBLE ▪ Because the leather is *pliable*, it's easy to work with.
2 : too easily influenced or controlled by other people ▪ She sometimes takes advantage of her *pliable* parents. ▪ His principles are *pliable*.
– **pli·abil·i·ty** /ˌplajəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *pliability* of the leather

pli·ant /ˈplajənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 a : able to bend without breaking : FLEXIBLE ▪ a *pliant* [=(more commonly) *pliable*] material **b** : able to move freely ▪ the dancer's *pliant* body
2 : too easily influenced or controlled by other people ▪ a *pliant* Congress that will do whatever the President wants ▪ a *pliant* wife/husband
– **pli·an·cy** /ˈplajənsi/ *noun* [*noncount*]

pli·ers /ˈplajəz/ *noun* [*plural*] : a tool that is used for holding small objects or for bending and cutting wire ▪ No toolbox is complete without (a pair of) *pliers*. — see picture at CARPENTRY

[1]plight /ˈplaɪt/ *noun, pl* **plights** [*count*] : a very bad or difficult situation — usually singular ▪ The recent cut in funding will only contribute to the hospital's financial *plight*. ▪ the *plight* of the unemployed/homeless

[2]plight *verb* **plights**; **plight·ed**; **plight·ing**
plight your troth *old-fashioned* : to promise to marry someone ▪ the garden where the lovers *plighted their troth*

plim·soll /ˈplɪmsəl/ *noun, pl* **-solls** [*count*] *Brit* : a light sports shoe that is made of strong cloth and has a rubber bottom

plinth /ˈplɪnθ/ *noun, pl* **plinths** [*count*] : a block of stone or wood that is used as the base for a pillar, statue, etc.

plod /ˈplɑːd/ *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **plods**; **plod·ded**; **plod·ding**
1 : to walk slowly and usually heavily : TRUDGE [*no obj*] We *plodded* through mud that came up past our ankles. ▪ I could hear my roommate *plodding* up the steps to our apartment. [+ *obj*] We *plodded* our way across the muddy field.
2 [+ *obj*] : to progress or develop slowly ▪ He *plodded* through his work. ▪ The day was *plodding* along.
– **plod** *noun* [*singular*] ▪ The pace had slowed to a *plod*.
– **plod·der** /ˈplɑːdɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ders** [*count*] ▪ a steady *plodder* – **plodding** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ the movie's *plodding* pace ▪ The book was written in *plodding* prose. – **plod·ding·ly** *adv* ▪ *ploddingly* dull prose

[1]plonk /ˈplɑːŋk/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : cheap wine that is not of good quality

[2]plonk *verb* **plonks**; **plonked**; **plonk·ing** [+ *obj*] *Brit, informal* : to drop or place (something or someone) in a forceful and often careless way : PLUNK ▪ He *plonked* the suitcase onto the bench.
plonk down [*phrasal verb*] ***plonk down or plonk yourself down*** *Brit, informal* : to sit or lie down suddenly in a careless way ▪ He *plonked down* [=(*chiefly US*) *plunked down*] beside me. ▪ She *plonked herself down* on the sofa.

plonk·er /ˈplɑːŋkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : a stupid person ▪ He was acting like a complete/total *plonker*.

[1]plop /ˈplɑːp/ *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **plops**; **plopped**; **plop·ping** *informal*
1 [*no obj*] : to fall, drop, or move with a sound like something dropping into liquid ▪ The stone *plopped* into the river. ▪ An ice cube *plopped* noisily into the glass.
2 [+ *obj*] : to drop (something) into a liquid so that it makes a splashing sound ▪ I filled the glass with water and *plopped* a few ice cubes into it.
3 : to sit or lie down in a heavy or careless way : to allow your body to drop heavily or carelessly [*no obj*] She *plopped* onto the couch. ▪ They *plopped* down on the floor. [+ *obj*] He *plopped* himself down in the chair.
4 [+ *obj*] : to drop or place (something or someone) in a heavy or careless way : PLUNK ▪ He *plopped* the tray down. ▪ The article warns parents against *plopping* their toddlers in front of the TV for hours on end.
plop down [*phrasal verb*] ***plop down (money) or plop (money) down*** *US, informal* : to pay or spend (money) ▪ I can't afford to just *plop down* [=*plunk down*] $30 for a T-shirt.

[2]plop *noun, pl* **plops** [*count*] : the sound made when something (such as a small object) drops into liquid — usually singular ▪ The rock landed in the water with a *plop*.

plo·sive /ˈploʊsɪv/ *noun, pl* **-sives** [*count*] *linguistics* : [2]STOP 6

[1]plot /ˈplɑːt/ *noun, pl* **plots**
1 [*count*] **a** : an area of land that has been measured and is considered as a unit ▪ The *plots* are selling for $15,000 per acre. ▪ They just bought a 12-acre ***plot of land***. **b** : a usually small piece of land that is used for a particular purpose ▪ a garden *plot* ▪ He bought a ***burial plot*** in the local cemetery. [=a small area of land where his body will be buried when he dies]
2 : a series of events that form the story in a novel, movie, etc. [*count*] The book's *plot* revolves around a woman who is searching for her missing sister. ▪ The movie has a weak/strong *plot*. ▪ As the *plot* unfolds [=as the story continues; as things happen in the novel, movie, etc.], we learn more about the hero's family. [*noncount*] The movie lacks *plot* [=nothing interesting happens in the movie], but it's a fascinating character study. ▪ He is a master of *plot* [=he is very good at thinking of interesting stories], but his characters are not realistic. — see also SUBPLOT
3 [*count*] : a secret plan to do something that is usually illegal or harmful ▪ Police uncovered a *plot* to assassinate the prime minister. ▪ The prime minister was the target of an assassination *plot*. ▪ *plots* against the government ▪ They ***hatched a plot*** [=made a plan] to steal the famous painting.
lose the plot *Brit, informal* : to become confused or crazy ▪ She was so nervous she thought she was going to *lose the plot*. [=*lose it*]
the plot thickens ✧ When *the plot thickens* in a novel, movie, etc., the story becomes more complicated or interesting. ▪ *The plot thickens* when the audience learns that the missing woman used to work for the FBI. The phrase is also used in a usually humorous way to talk about things that happen in real life. ▪ So you've worked with him before? Ah, *the plot thickens*.

[2]plot *verb* **plots**; **plot·ted**; **plot·ting**
1 a : to plan secretly to do something usually illegal or harmful [+ *obj*] They *plotted* to steal the painting. ▪ She spent her years in prison *plotting* her revenge. ▪ He *plotted* his es-

cape. ▪ They are accused of *plotting* the assassination of the prime minister. = They are accused of *plotting* to assassinate the prime minister. [*no obj*] — usually + *against* ▪ He feared the other prisoners were *plotting against* him. **b** [+ *obj*] : to plan (something) ▪ We've been *plotting* growth strategies for the company. ▪ She carefully *plotted* her career path.

2 [+ *obj*] : to mark (something, such as a location or path) on a map, graph, chart, etc. ▪ They've *plotted* the locations where the trees will be planted. ▪ Have you *plotted* the route for your trip yet? ▪ Students *plotted* soil temperatures on a graph throughout the school year. — often + *out* ▪ The investigators *plotted out* the airplane's route.

3 [+ *obj*] : to create a plot for (a novel, movie, etc.) — usually used as *(be) plotted* ▪ Her latest book *is* a brilliantly *plotted* novel [=a novel with a brilliant plot] about the war.

plot•line /ˈplɑːtˌlaɪn/ *noun, pl* **-lines** [*count*] : the things that happen in a book, movie, etc. : PLOT ▪ the movie's main *plotline*

plot•ter /ˈplɑːtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*]

1 : a person who secretly plans to do something illegal or harmful : someone who plots something ▪ The police caught the *plotters* of the bank heist.

2 : a computer program or device that creates a graph or chart from information

Plough /ˈplaʊ/ *noun*

the Plough *Brit* : BIG DIPPER

plough, ploughshare *Brit spelling of* PLOW, PLOWSHARE

plo•ver /ˈplʌvɚ/ *noun, pl* **plover** *or* **plo•vers** [*count*] : a type of bird that has a short beak and that lives near the sea

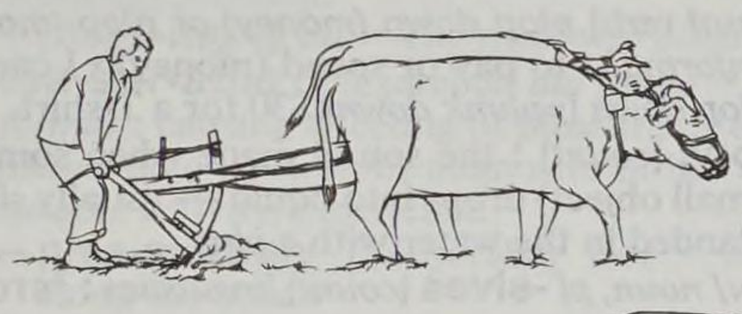
[1]plow (*US*) *or Brit* **plough** /ˈplaʊ/ *noun, pl* **plows** [*count*]

1 : a piece of farm equipment that is used to dig into and turn over soil especially to prepare the soil for planting

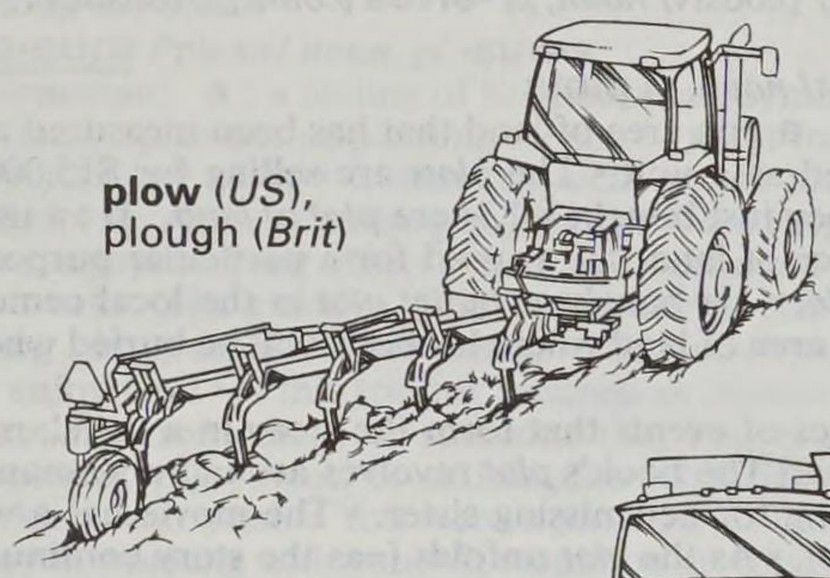
2 : SNOWPLOW

under the plow *of land* : used for growing crops ▪ The amount of local land *under the plow* is decreasing.

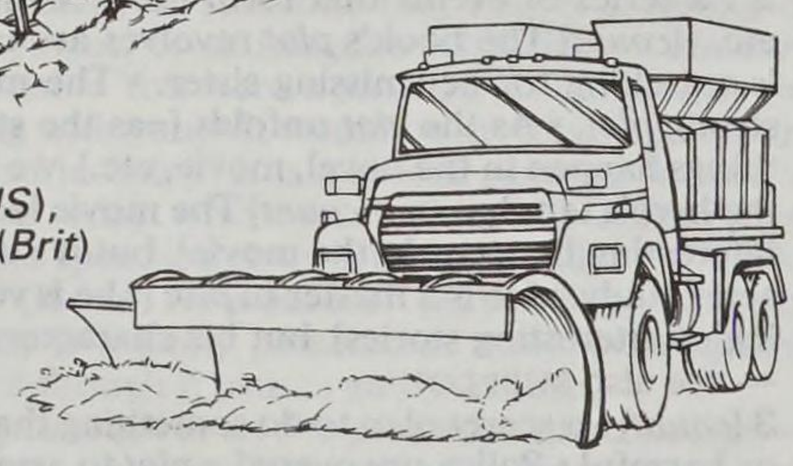
plow



plow (*US*), plough (*Brit*)



plow (*US*), plough (*Brit*)



snowplow (*US*), snowplough (*Brit*)

[2]plow (*US*) *or Brit* **plough** *verb* **plows; plowed; plow•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to dig into or break up (dirt, soil, land, etc.) with a plow ▪ The soil was freshly *plowed*. ▪ They used oxen to *plow* the field. ▪ *Plow* the weeds back into the soil. [=use a plow to bury the weeds]

2 *chiefly US* : to use a snowplow to remove snow from a road, parking lot, etc. [+ *obj*] My street hasn't been *plowed* yet. ▪ We hired someone to *plow* the snow from our driveway. [*no obj*] The town won't start *plowing* until the storm is almost over.

3 : to move through, over, or across (something) in a forceful and steady way [+ *obj*] a ship/whale *plowing* the ocean ▪ They continued to *plow* their way through the tall grass. [*no obj*] — followed by an adverb or preposition ▪ A series of damaging storms *plowed* across the state last fall. ▪ We *plowed* through the crowd.

4 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to do something difficult in a slow or steady way ▪ She spent several hours *plowing* through the paperwork on her desk.

plough a furrow see [1]FURROW

plow ahead [*phrasal verb*] : to continue to do something without being stopped by problems or opposition ▪ The city is *plowing ahead* with plans to demolish the building.

plow into [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***plow into (someone or something)*** : to crash into (someone or something) usually at a high speed ▪ The car *plowed into* the guardrail. **2** ***plow (money, profits, etc.) into (something)*** : to invest (money, profits, etc.) in (something) : to put (money) into (something) ▪ The company *plowed* millions of dollars *into* research. — often + *back* ▪ For the first 10 years, the profits were all *plowed back into* the company.

plow on [*phrasal verb*] : to continue doing something that is slow and difficult ▪ I was discouraged, but I *plowed on*.

plow•share (*US*) *or Brit* **plough•share** /ˈplaʊˌʃeɚ/ *noun, pl* **-shares** [*count*] : the part of a plow that digs into the soil

beat/turn swords into plowshares see SWORD

ploy /ˈplɔɪ/ *noun, pl* **ploys** [*count*] : a clever trick or plan that is used to get someone to do something or to gain an advantage over someone ▪ Her story about being sick is only a *ploy* to get you to give her money. ▪ a ***marketing ploy*** [=something that people who are selling a product use to make people want to buy the product]

[1]pluck /ˈplʌk/ *verb* **plucks; plucked; pluck•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to pull (something) quickly to remove it ▪ My sister *plucked* a white hair from my head. ▪ The hunter *plucked* the bird's feathers. ▪ *plucking* petals off/from a flower ▪ *pluck* [=*pick*] a lemon from the tree

2 [+ *obj*] : to remove some or all of the feathers or hairs from (something) ▪ They *plucked* a chicken. ▪ She *plucks* her eyebrows. [=she regularly removes some of the hairs in her eyebrows to make her eyebrows have a particular shape]

3 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [+ *obj*] **a** : to take (someone or something) away from a place or situation suddenly or by force ▪ Firefighters *plucked* the child from the top floor of the burning building. ▪ He'd been *plucked* from obscurity and thrust into the national spotlight. ▪ a cat that was *plucked* off the city's streets last winter **b** : to select or take (something) usually from a group, container, or place ▪ We *plucked* [=*chose*] passages at random from the book and read them aloud. ▪ He *plucked* a stone out of the river.

4 a : to pull and release (a string on a musical instrument) with your fingers in order to make a sound [+ *obj*] *pluck* a guitar string [*no obj*] *pluck* on a guitar string **b** : to play (a guitar, banjo, etc.) by pulling and releasing the strings with your fingers [+ *obj*] She was softly *plucking* a banjo. [*no obj*] *plucking* on/at a banjo

pluck at [*phrasal verb*] ***pluck at (something)*** : to pull part of (something) with your fingers especially more than once ▪ He nervously *plucked at* the blanket.

pluck up (the) courage ✧ If you *pluck up (the) courage* to do something, you become brave enough to do it. ▪ He finally *plucked up the courage* to ask her out on a date.

[2]pluck *noun* [*noncount*] *old-fashioned + informal* : a quality that makes you continue trying to do or achieve something that is difficult : courage and determination ▪ It takes *pluck* to do what she did. ▪ She showed *pluck* in getting up on stage.

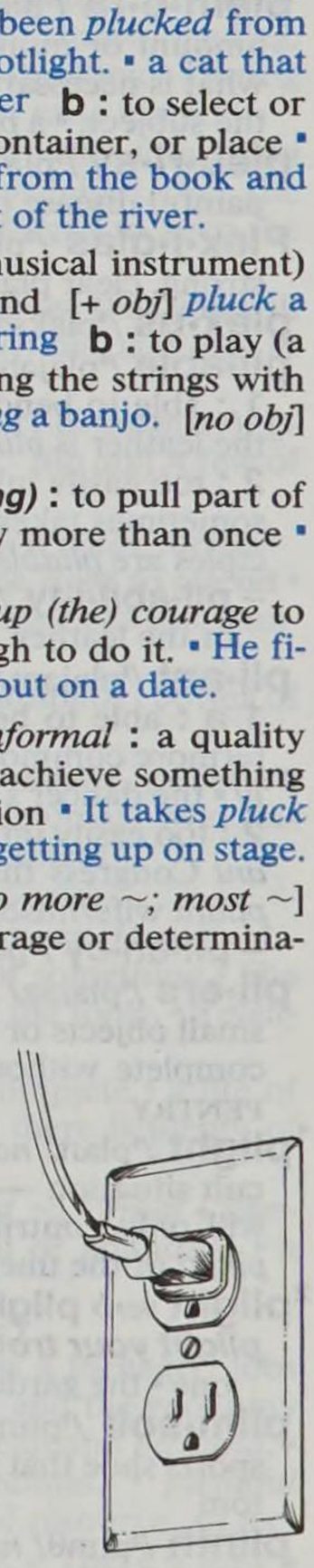
plucky /ˈplʌki/ *adj* **pluck•i•er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*] *informal* : having or showing a lot of courage or determination ▪ a *plucky* young man

[1]plug /ˈplʌg/ *noun, pl* **plugs** [*count*]

1 a : a part at the end of an electric cord that has two or three metal pins that connect the cord to a source of electricity ▪ the lamp's *plug* ▪ The only way to turn the machine off is to ***pull the plug***. [=remove the plug from the outlet] — see also PULL THE PLUG (below) **b** : a part at the end of a wire or cable that is used to connect machines or devices ▪ a microphone *plug* **c** *chiefly Brit* : OUTLET 4

2 : a thing that is used to close a hole in a container or object ▪ I put the *plug* [=*stopper*] in the drain and let the sink/bathtub fill with water. ▪ a ***drain plug***

3 : a thing that is used to fill a hole or empty area ▪ a wooden *plug* ▪ We replanted the area with *plugs* of grass. [=bunches of grass plants] — see also EARPLUG



plug

4 : a piece of tobacco used for chewing ▪ He put a *plug* of tobacco in his mouth.
5 : SPARK PLUG
6 : something that is said on the radio, on television, etc., in order to create interest in something (such as a book, movie, or restaurant) — often + *for* ▪ I heard a *plug for* that café on the radio. ▪ He ***gave a plug for*** [=talked about] his new film during the interview. ▪ She ***put in a plug for*** the band's new album on her radio program.
pull the plug *informal* **1** : to turn off the machine that is keeping a very sick or injured person alive and allow that person to die ▪ Only his wife can decide to *pull the plug*. **2** : to allow or cause something to end by stopping the money or support that is needed for it — usually + *on* ▪ At the end of the season, the network is *pulling the plug on* the show. ▪ They may *pull the plug on* the tutoring program.

[2]plug *verb* **plugs; plugged; plug•ging** [+ *obj*]
1 : to fill or cover (a hole, space, etc.) with something ▪ We were able to *plug* the hole with cement. ▪ Leaves and dirt were *plugging* [=*blocking*] the storm drain. — often + *up* ▪ He *plugged up* the spaces between the stones with mud. ▪ The drain was *plugged up*. [=*clogged, blocked*] — often used figuratively ▪ The company needs to *plug* the holes/gaps in its security system.
2 : to praise (something, such as a book, movie, or restaurant) publicly in a way that makes people want to buy it, see it, etc. : to advertise (something) by talking about it especially on the radio or television ▪ One of the DJs on the local radio station has been *plugging* the band's new album.
3 *US, informal + old-fashionied* : to shoot (someone) with a gun ▪ He *plugged* him right in the chest.
plug away [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to continue doing something even though it is difficult or boring — often + *at* ▪ She kept *plugging away at* her homework.
plug in [*phrasal verb*] ***plug (something) in*** *or* ***plug in (something)*** **1** : to connect (something, such as a lamp or television) to an electrical source or to another device by using a plug ▪ Don't *plug* the stereo *in* yet. ▪ He *plugged in* the lamp. ▪ The microphone isn't *plugged in*. **2** : to put (information, such as a word or number) in something ▪ The form has spaces where you just *plug in* [=*insert*] your name and address. — see also PLUG-IN
plug into [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***plug into (something)*** *or* ***plug (something) into (something)*** : to become connected or to cause (something) to become connected to an electrical source or another device ▪ The heater *plugs into* the dashboard of your car. ▪ *Plug* the heater *into* the dashboard of the car. ▪ I'm trying to figure out how to *plug* the scanner *into* my computer. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The company has *plugged into* the international market. [=the company has become connected to the international market; the company has begun to do business in the international market] ▪ His friends are *plugged into* the city's music scene. [=his friends are actively involved in the city's music scene] **2** ***plug (something) into (something)*** : to put (information, such as a word or number) into something ▪ The computer program will take data from these sources and automatically *plug* it *into* the equation.

plug and play *noun* [*noncount*] *computers* : a feature of a computer system that makes it possible for the computer to use a device as soon as it is connected to the computer
– plug–and–play *adj* ▪ *plug-and-play* software

plug•hole /ˈplʌgˌhoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-holes** [*count*] *Brit* : [2]DRAIN 1
down the plughole *informal* **1** — used to describe something that is being wasted or lost ▪ All my hard work ***went down the plughole***. [=*went down the drain*] ▪ You're ***pouring your money down the plughole***. [=you're wasting your money] **2** — used to describe something that is getting much worse ▪ The business is ***going down the plughole***.

plug–in /ˈplʌgˌɪn/ *noun, pl* **-ins** [*count*] *computers* : a small piece of software that adds a feature to a larger program or makes a program work better ▪ a (Web) browser *plug-in* ▪ *plug-in* software

plum /ˈplʌm/ *noun, pl* **plums**
1 [*count*] : a round, juicy fruit that has red or purple skin, sweet yellow flesh, and a hard seed at the center ▪ a bowl of peaches and *plums* ▪ Dried *plums* are also called "prunes." ▪ *plum* sauce ▪ *plum* trees — see color picture on page C5
2 [*count*] *somewhat informal* : something that many people want or think is very good ▪ That deal is a real *plum* for the contractor. — usually used before another noun ▪ It's a *plum* job. ▪ How did she get such a *plum* role in the play?
3 [*noncount*] : a dark reddish-purple color — see color picture on page C3

plum•age /ˈplʌmɪʤ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the feathers that cover the body of a bird ▪ The peacock has colorful *plumage*.

[1]plumb /ˈplʌm/ *adv*
1 *technical* : exactly straight down or up : in a perfectly vertical position ▪ He set the board *plumb*.
2 *US, informal + old-fashioned* : to a complete degree : COMPLETELY ▪ I *plumb* forgot about the party. ▪ We were *plumb* [=*totally*] exhausted after the game.
3 *informal* : EXACTLY, DIRECTLY ▪ The island is located *plumb* [=*right*] in the middle of the lake.

[2]plumb *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *technical* : exactly vertical : standing perfectly straight and not leaning in any way ▪ The carpenter made sure that the wall was *plumb*. ▪ The chimney is ***out of plumb***. = The chimney is ***off plumb***. [=not straight upright; leaning to one side]

[3]plumb *verb* **plumbs; plumbed; plumb•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 a *literary* : to examine (something) in a careful and complete way in order to understand it ▪ The book *plumbs* the complexities of human relationships. ▪ a scientist who spent her life *plumbing* the minds of criminals ▪ The play ***plumbs the depths of*** human nature. **b** : to experience or reach (something) ▪ someone who has ***plumbed the depths of*** loss/pain [=who has experienced a lot of loss/pain] ▪ The company's stocks ***plumbed new depths*** [=reached their lowest value] this week.
2 *US* **a** : to install pipes for sinks, toilets, etc., in (a building or room) ▪ The plumber is almost finished *plumbing* the apartment. ▪ The new house has been wired and *plumbed*. **b** : to connect (something, such as a sink) to a water supply ▪ All the bathroom fixtures have been *plumbed*.
plumb in [*phrasal verb*] *chiefly Brit* ***plumb (something) in*** *or* ***plumb in (something)*** : to connect (something) to a water supply ▪ I *plumbed in* the washing machine.

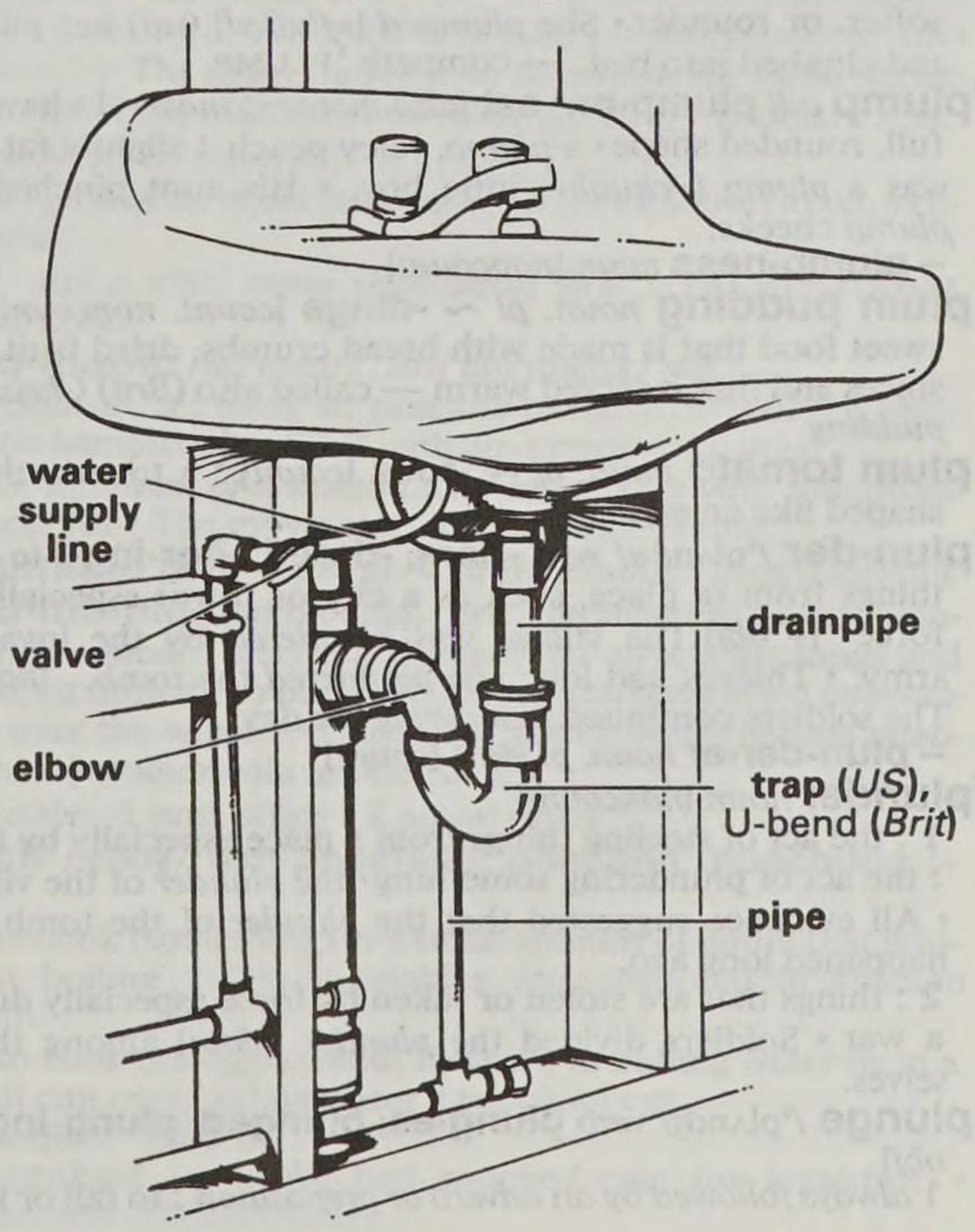
plumb bob *noun, pl* ~ **bobs** [*count*] *US*
1 : a usually small, heavy object that is used to make a string or rope hang straight : the heavy object that is part of a plumb line — called also *bob*
2 : PLUMB LINE

plumb•er /ˈplʌmɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person whose job is to install or repair sinks, toilets, water pipes, etc.

plumber's snake *noun, pl* ~ **snakes** [*count*] : [1]SNAKE 3

plumb•ing /ˈplʌmɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a system of pipes that carries water through a building ▪ The house has old *plumbing*. ▪ The cottage has electricity but no ***indoor plumbing***. [=the cottage does not have a toilet or sink; there are no pipes that supply clean water to the cottage] ▪ a store that sells ***plumbing fixtures*** [=sinks, toilets, faucets, etc.]

plumbing



P

2 : the work of a plumber : the job of installing and repairing sinks, toilets, water pipes, etc.

plumb line *noun, pl* ~ **lines** [*count*] : a tool that consists of a small, heavy object attached to a string or rope and that is used especially to see if something (such as a wall) is perfectly vertical — called also (*US*) *plumb bob*

plume /ˈplu:m/ *noun, pl* **plumes** [*count*]

1 : a feather or group of feathers on a bird ▪ the peacock's colorful *plumes*

2 : a decoration made of feathers or something similar ▪ a hat with bright ostrich *plumes*

3 : something (such as smoke, steam, or water) that rises into the air in a tall, thin shape ▪ A *plume* [=*column*] of smoke rose from the chimney.

– see also NOM DE PLUME

– **plumed** /ˈplu:md/ *adj* ▪ The knights wore *plumed* helmets. ▪ a white-*plumed* bird

plum•met /ˈplʌmət/ *verb* **-mets**; **-met•ed**; **-met•ing** [*no obj*]

1 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to fall suddenly straight down especially from a very high place ▪ The acrobat *plummeted* into the net. ▪ The car *plummeted* to the bottom of the canyon. ▪ The satellite *plummeted* into/toward the ocean.

2 : to fall or drop suddenly in amount, value, etc. : PLUNGE ▪ Stock prices *plummeted* 40 percent during the scandal. ▪ The TV show has *plummeted* in the ratings. ▪ Temperatures are expected to *plummet* this weekend. ▪ The town's population *plummets* when the students leave for the summer.

plum•my /ˈplʌmi/ *adj* **plum•mi•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : like a plum in color, taste, or smell ▪ the wine's ripe, *plummy* flavors

2 *often disapproving, of a person's voice* : full and formal often in a way that sounds too proper and not natural ▪ his *plummy* British accent

3 *informal* : wanted by many people : very good and desirable ▪ a *plummy* job [=a good job that people want to have]

[1]plump /ˈplʌmp/ *verb* **plumps**; **plumped**; **plump•ing** : to sit, fall, or lie down in a sudden, awkward, or relaxed way : PLOP [*no obj*] He came home and *plumped* [=*flopped*] down on the couch. [+ *obj*] She *plumped* her bags onto the bench.

plump for [*phrasal verb*] ***plump for (someone or something)*** *informal* **1** *US* : to express support for (someone or something) ▪ The President *plumped for* the incumbent candidate in the election. **2** *Brit* : to choose (someone or something) after thinking carefully ▪ I finally *plumped for* the blue dress.

– compare [2]PLUMP

[2]plump *verb* **plumps**; **plumped**; **plumping** [+ *obj*] : to shake or hit (something, such as a pillow) to make it fuller, softer, or rounder ▪ She *plumped* [=*fluffed*] (up) her pillows and climbed into bed. — compare [1]PLUMP

[3]plump *adj* **plump•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] : having a full, rounded shape ▪ a *plump*, juicy peach : slightly fat ▪ He was a *plump* [=*chubby*] little boy. ▪ His aunt pinched his *plump* cheeks.

– **plump•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

plum pudding *noun, pl* ~ **-dings** [*count, noncount*] : a sweet food that is made with bread crumbs, dried fruit, and spices and that is served warm — called also (*Brit*) *Christmas pudding*

plum tomato *noun, pl* ~ **-toes** [*count*] : a tomato that is shaped like an egg

[1]plun•der /ˈplʌndɚ/ *verb* **-ders**; **-dered**; **-der•ing** : to steal things from (a place, such as a city or town) especially by force [+ *obj*] The village was *plundered* by the invading army. ▪ Thieves had long ago *plundered* the tomb. [*no obj*] The soldiers continued *plundering* for days.

– **plun•der•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

[2]plunder *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the act of stealing things from a place especially by force : the act of plundering something ▪ the *plunder* of the village ▪ All evidence suggested that the *plunder* of the tomb had happened long ago.

2 : things that are stolen or taken by force especially during a war ▪ Soldiers divided the *plunder* [=*loot*] among themselves.

[1]plunge /ˈplʌnʤ/ *verb* **plung•es**; **plunged**; **plung•ing** [*no obj*]

1 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to fall or jump suddenly from a high place ▪ Her car *plunged* off a bridge. ▪ He *plunged* [=*dove*] into the pool. ▪ The rocket *plunged* [=*plummeted*] toward the Earth. ▪ The parachute failed to open, and the jumper ***plunged to her death*** [=died from her fall]

2 : to fall or drop suddenly in amount, value, etc. : PLUMMET ▪ The stock market *plunged* yesterday. ▪ The President's approval rating has *plunged* to 20 percent. ▪ The moose population has *plunged* in recent years.

3 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to have a steep slope or drop downward ▪ The rocky cliffs *plunge* into the swirling rapids below. ▪ The road *plunges* down the mountain.

plunge in/into [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***plunge (something) in*** *or* ***plunge (something) into (something)*** : to push (something) into (something) quickly and forcefully ▪ The nurse grabbed his arm and *plunged* the needle *in*. ▪ He *plunged* the knife *into* the cake. ▪ I *plunged* the sponge *into* the bucket of water. ▪ He *plunged* his hands *into* his pockets. **2** ***plunge in*** *or* ***plunge into (something)*** : to start doing (something) with enthusiasm and energy ▪ It was a big project, so we all just had to *plunge in* [=*dive in*] and get started. ▪ She *plunged* (right) *into* the assignment. **3 a** ***plunge into (something)*** : to suddenly begin to be in (a particular and usually bad condition or situation) ▪ He *plunged into* a severe depression. **b** ***plunge (someone or something) into (something)*** : to cause (someone or something) to suddenly be in (a particular condition or situation) ▪ A series of bad management decisions had *plunged* the company *into* debt. ▪ The author *plunges* his readers *into* a world of fantasy. ▪ The museum was recently *plunged into* scandal when it was learned that some of its art had been sold on the black market. ▪ The city was ***plunged into darkness*** [=the city suddenly became dark]

[2]plunge *noun, pl* **plunges** [*count*]

1 : a sudden fall or jump usually from a high place ▪ Amazingly, the cat survived its *plunge* from the building's roof.

2 : a sudden quick fall in amount, value, etc. ▪ Market analysts predicted a price *plunge*. ▪ The store experienced a sharp *plunge* in sales.

3 : the act of suddenly beginning to be in a particular condition or situation — usually + *into* ▪ his *plunge into* severe depression ▪ A series of bad management decisions are responsible for the company's *plunge into* debt.

take the plunge *informal* : to do something after thinking about it especially for a long time ▪ We've been thinking of buying a new car, and yesterday we finally *took the plunge*. [=we bought a new car] ▪ They're talking about marriage, but they don't know if they're ready to *take the plunge*.

plung•er /ˈplʌnʤɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a tool made of a stick with a rubber cup on the end that is used to clear a blocked pipe in a toilet or sink — see picture at BATHROOM

2 : a part that moves up and down usually inside a tube or cylinder (such as a syringe) to push something out

plunk /ˈplʌŋk/ *verb* **plunks**; **plunked**; **plunk•ing** *informal*

1 *chiefly US* : to pull or hit a string or key on a musical instrument with your fingers especially in a way that makes a brief, somewhat harsh sound [+ *obj*] You've been *plunking* that banjo all afternoon! ▪ She *plunked* out a little tune on the piano. [*no obj*] *plunking* away on a guitar

2 [+ *obj*] *US* : to hit (someone or something) especially with a ball ▪ The pitcher *plunked* the first two batters of the game.

3 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [+ *obj*] *chiefly US* : to drop or place (something or someone) in a forceful and often careless way : PLOP ▪ He *plunked* [=(*Brit*) *plonked*] the suitcase onto the bench. ▪ She *plunked* a mug of coffee on the counter. — often used figuratively ▪ He was *plunked* down into a job he wasn't qualified to do.

plunk down [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** ***plunk down (money)*** *or* ***plunk (money) down*** *US* : to pay or spend (money) ▪ He just *plunked down* $25,000 for a new car. **2** ***plunk down*** *or* ***plunk yourself down*** *chiefly US* : to sit or lie down suddenly in a careless way ▪ He *plunked down* [=(*Brit*) *plonked down*] beside me. ▪ She *plunked herself down* on the sofa.

plu•per•fect /ˌplu:ˈpɚfɪkt/ *noun* [*noncount*] *grammar* : PAST PERFECT

[1]plu•ral /ˈplʊrəl/ *adj*

1 *grammar* : relating to a form of a word that refers to more than one person or thing ▪ The word "trees" is a *plural* noun. ▪ The *plural* form of the word "child" is "children." ▪ a *plural* verb such as "are" or "were" rather than a singular verb such

as "is" or "was" — compare SINGULAR
2 *formal* **a :** relating to or made up of more than one kind or group ▪ Our country is a *plural* society. [=it includes people of different social classes, religions, races, etc.] **b :** relating to or made up of more than one person or thing ▪ the practice of ***plural marriage*** [=a marriage in which there is more than one husband or wife]

²plural *noun, pl* **-rals** [*count*] **:** a form of a word that is used to refer to more than one person or thing ▪ English *plurals* usually end in an "s." — usually used with *the* ▪ *The plural* of (the word) "child" is "children." ▪ "Books" is *the plural* of "book." ▪ "Children" is ***in the plural***. — abbr. *pl.*

plu·ral·ism /'plʊrə,lɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal*
1 : a situation in which people of different social classes, religions, races, etc., are together in a society but continue to have their different traditions and interests ▪ He spoke of the benefits of cultural/religious *pluralism*.
2 : the belief that people of different social classes, religions, races, etc., should live together in a society ▪ She's a champion of *pluralism*.
– **plu·ral·ist** /'plʊrəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] – **pluralist** *or* **plu·ral·is·tic** /,plʊrə'lɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ a *pluralistic* society

plu·ral·i·ty /plʊ'rælətɪ/ *noun, pl* **-ties**
1 [*count*] *formal* **:** a usually large number of things — usually singular; usually + *of* ▪ The researchers studied a *plurality of* approaches.
2 [*count*] *chiefly US, technical* **:** a number of votes that is more than the number of votes for any other candidate or party but that is not more than half of the total number of votes — usually singular ▪ Her party won by receiving a *plurality* of the vote. ▪ He was elected with a *plurality*, not a majority. — compare MAJORITY
3 [*noncount*] *grammar* **:** the state of being plural ▪ The verb "are" indicates the *plurality* of the subject. [=the verb "are" shows that the subject is plural]

¹plus /'plʌs/ *adj*
1 *always used before a noun* **:** having a value that is above zero **:** POSITIVE ▪ The temperature was *plus* 10 degrees. [=10 degrees above zero] — opposite ³MINUS 1
2 — used after a letter grade (such as A, B, or C) to show that the work is slightly better than the letter by itself would indicate ▪ He got a C *plus* in history. — opposite ³MINUS 2
3 — used after a number to indicate a range greater than that number ▪ The concert is an 18-*plus* show. [=a show for people who are 18 years old or older] ▪ This stadium seats 20,000-*plus* people. [=more than 20,000 people]
on the plus side — used to describe the more appealing or attractive part of something ▪ On the minus side, the job doesn't pay very well, but *on the plus side*, the hours are very convenient.

²plus *noun, pl* **plus·es** [*count*]
1 *informal* **:** something that is useful or helpful ▪ The apartment isn't perfect, but the fact that it has new appliances is a *plus*. ▪ The state college's low tuition is only one of its *pluses*. [=*advantages, benefits*] ▪ The job doesn't pay well, but the convenient hours are a definite *plus*. — opposite ²MINUS 1
2 *mathematics* **:** PLUS SIGN

³plus *prep*
1 — used to indicate that one number or amount is being added to another ▪ 4 *plus* 5 equals/is 9 ▪ The cost is $10 *plus* $2 for shipping.
2 : and also **:** as well as ▪ The hotel has two restaurants, *plus* a bar and a swimming pool.
plus or minus — used to indicate that a value, number, or amount may be above or below a certain number ▪ It should take a month, *plus or minus* a few days.

⁴plus *conj, informal* **:** in addition **:** AND ▪ He works a full-time job during the day, *plus* he goes to school at night. ▪ I enjoy gardening, *plus* it's good exercise.

¹plush /'plʌʃ/ *adj* **plush·er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*]
1 a : made of a thick, soft fabric ▪ *plush* carpeting/toys **b :** thick and soft ▪ *plush* fabric
2 : very fancy and usually expensive **:** LUXURIOUS ▪ a *plush* apartment/office/suite ▪ The hotel accommodations were *plush*.

²plush *noun* [*noncount*] **:** a thick, soft fabric

plus sign *noun, pl* **~ signs** [*count*] **:** the symbol + used to show that a number is being added to another number or that a quantity is greater than zero — compare MINUS SIGN

plus size *noun, pl* **~ sizes** [*count*] *chiefly US* **:** a clothing size made for large women ▪ The store sells *plus sizes*.
– **plus-size** *adj* ▪ *plus-size* clothing/women ▪ the *plus-size* department/market

Plu·to /'plu:toʊ/ *noun* [*singular*] **:** the object in our solar system that in the past was thought to be the planet farthest from the sun but that is no longer considered to be a planet

plu·toc·ra·cy /plu'tɑ:krəsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies**
1 a [*noncount*] **:** government by the richest people ▪ a trend toward *plutocracy* **b** [*count*] **:** a country that is ruled by the richest people ▪ If only the wealthy can afford to run for public office, are we more a *plutocracy* than a democracy?
2 [*count*] **:** a group of very rich people who have a lot of power ▪ corporate greed and America's growing *plutocracy*

plu·to·crat /'plu:tə,kræt/ *noun, pl* **-crats** [*count*] *often disapproving* **:** a person who has power because of great wealth
– **plu·to·crat·ic** /,plu:tə'krætɪk/ *adj* ▪ a *plutocratic* society

plu·to·ni·um /plu'toʊnijəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** a radioactive element that is used to make nuclear energy and nuclear weapons

¹ply /'plaɪ/ *verb* **plies; plied; ply·ing** *formal*
1 [+ *obj*] **a :** to work at (a job, activity, etc.) ▪ The carpenter *plies* his art/craft in his workshop. ▪ Wood-carvers were ***plying their trade*** [=doing their work] in the town square. ▪ a street where many artists ***ply their wares*** [=sell their goods] on the sidewalk **b** *old-fashioned* **:** to use (something, such as a tool) with care and skill ▪ She makes a living as a writer, busily *plying* her pen each day.
2 *always followed by an adverb or preposition, of a bus, ship, airplane, etc.* **:** to go along the same route regularly **:** to travel on a particular road, way, etc., regularly [*no obj*] Barges *plied* back and forth along the canal. ▪ Two ferries *ply* between the island and mainland in the summer months. [+ *obj*] Trucks *ply* the highway between the two cities. ▪ ships *plying* the country's northern coast
ply for hire/business/trade *Brit* **:** to try to get customers or business ▪ Taxis *ply for hire/business* outside the train station. ▪ The company is *plying for trade* in America.
ply with [*phrasal verb*] ***ply (someone) with (something)*** **:** to offer or give (something) to (someone) repeatedly or constantly ▪ Someone who is *plying* you *with* gifts [=giving you many gifts] probably wants something in return. ▪ Waiters *plied* guests *with* wine and hors d'oeuvres. ▪ He *plied* me *with* questions. [=he asked me many questions]

²ply *noun, pl* **plies** [*count*] **:** one of the layers, folds, or strands that make something (such as yarn or plywood) ▪ a single *ply* of fabric — usually used in combination ▪ four-*ply* yarn [=yarn made up of four strands] ▪ two-*ply* paper towels

ply·wood /'plaɪ,wʊd/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** a strong board that is made by gluing together thin sheets of wood ▪ a floor made of *plywood* = a *plywood* floor

p.m. *or* **PM** *or Brit* **pm** *abbr* in the afternoon or evening — used with numbers to show the time of day ▪ She went to bed at 10 *p.m.* ▪ He works every day from 8:00 a.m. to/until 4:30 *p.m.* ▪ Lunch will be served at ***12 p.m.*** [=*noon*; one hour after 11 a.m.] ✧ The abbreviation *p.m.* stands for the Latin phrase *post meridiem*, which means "after noon." — compare A.M.

PM *abbr* prime minister

PMS /,pi:,ɛm'ɛs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* **:** PREMENSTRUAL SYNDROME

PMT /,pi:,ɛm'ti:/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* **:** PREMENSTRUAL SYNDROME

pneu·mat·ic /nʊ'mætɪk, *Brit* nju'mætɪk/ *adj*
1 *technical* **a :** using air pressure to move or work ▪ a *pneumatic* hammer **b :** filled with air ▪ *pneumatic* tires
2 *US, informal, of a woman* **:** having a body with full, pleasing curves ▪ The movie stars a *pneumatic* blonde.

pneumatic drill *noun, pl* **~ drills** [*count*] **:** JACKHAMMER

pneu·mo·nia /nʊ'moʊnjə, *Brit* nju'məʊnjə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* **:** a serious disease that affects the lungs and makes it difficult to breathe ▪ He caught/contracted *pneumonia* over the winter. ▪ Her father died from/of ***double pneumonia***. [=pneumonia in both lungs]

P.O. *abbr* **1** post office **2** postal order

¹poach /'poʊʧ/ *verb* **poach·es; poached; poach·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to cook (something) in a small amount of liquid that is almost boiling ▪ The vegetables were *poached* in chicken broth.
2 : to cook (an egg without its shell) in boiling water or in a small cup over boiling water ▪ *poach* an egg
– compare ²POACH
– **poached** *adj* ▪ We had *poached* eggs for breakfast. ▪ *poached* salmon/oysters

[2]poach *verb* **poaches; poached; poaching**

1 : to hunt or fish illegally : to catch or kill an animal illegally [+ *obj*] Elephants are often *poached* for their ivory tusks. [*no obj*] The state fines anyone who is caught *poaching*.

2 [+ *obj*] : to take (something, such as an idea, or someone, such as an employee or customer) from someone else illegally or unfairly ▪ She was accused of *poaching* [=*plagiarizing*] the material for her essay from a Web site. ▪ Her former company accused her of *poaching* clients.

poach on someone's territory/turf : to do something that someone else should do : to interfere in an area that another person usually controls ▪ You can't keep other candidates from *poaching on your turf*. [=from trying to get voters who usually vote for you or your party to vote for them]

– compare [1]POACH

– **poach•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ *Poachers* are responsible for the declining rhinoceros population in this area.

– **poaching** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a heavy fine for *poaching*

P.O. Box *noun, pl* ~ **Boxes** [*count*] : a box at a post office where you can have mail delivered — used in mailing addresses ▪ Write to *P.O. Box* 100, New York, New York.

po'•boy /'poʊˌboɪ/ *noun, pl* **-boys** [*count*] *US* : SUBMARINE SANDWICH — used especially to refer to a type of submarine sandwich that is served in Louisiana

pock /'pɑ:k/ *verb* **pocks; pocked; pock•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make holes in or marks on (something) ▪ one of the many craters that *pock* the moon's surface

– **pocked** *adj* ▪ the moon's *pocked* surface ▪ a bullet-*pocked* wall [=a wall that bullets have pocked] ▪ The road was *pocked* with potholes. ▪ a face *pocked* with scars

[1]pock•et /'pɑ:kət/ *noun, pl* **-ets** [*count*]

1 : a usually small cloth bag that is sewn into a piece of clothing, a larger bag, etc., and that is open at the top or side so that you can put things into it ▪ He keeps his gloves in his coat *pocket*. ▪ She was standing there with her hands in her *pockets*. ▪ a hip/breast/shirt *pocket* ▪ I have a hole in my *pocket*. ▪ Her *pocket* was full of change/coins. ▪ The security guard asked us to ***empty our pockets*** [=to take out everything in our pockets] — see color picture on page C15

2 : the amount of money that someone has available to spend ▪ We're looking for investors with *pockets* that are deep enough to pay for the project. [=investors with enough money to pay for the project] ▪ There are items in our store that ***suit every pocket*** [=that everyone can afford to buy] ▪ The governor paid for the event ***out of his own pocket*** [=with his own money rather than the state's money] ▪ The mayor diverted city funds ***into his own pockets*** [=he took money that belonged to the city] — see also DEEP POCKETS

3 : a small bag or container that is attached to something and used to hold things ▪ There are *pockets* on the back of each car seat. ▪ The tickets are in the zippered *pocket* on the front of the suitcase.

4 : a small area or group that is different from the larger area or group it is in or near — usually + *of* ▪ Military forces have encountered a few *pockets of* resistance.

5 *pool and billiards* : a bag or cup that you hit the ball into at the corner or side of a pool table or billiard table ▪ He knocked the ball into the corner/side *pocket*.

6 : AIR POCKET

be/live in each other's pockets *Brit, informal* : to be too close to someone or spend too much time with someone

in someone's pocket *or* ***in the pocket of someone*** *disapproving* : under someone's control or influence ▪ The judge in the case was *in the senator's pocket*. [=was controlled by the senator] ▪ researchers/scientists who are *in the pocket of* pharmaceutical companies

in your pocket *informal* ✧ If you have something *in your pocket*, you are certain to win or get it. ▪ The interview went really well. I thought I had the job *in my pocket*. ▪ She knew that she had the game/match *in her pocket*. [=she knew she would win the game]

line your pockets see [3]LINE

out of pocket *chiefly Brit, informal* : having less money because of something that has happened ▪ The lawsuit has left company shareholders $30 million *out of pocket*. — see also OUT-OF-POCKET

pick pockets see [1]PICK

[2]pocket *verb* **-ets; -et•ed; -et•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to put (something) in a pocket ▪ He *pocketed* the change.

2 a : to take or keep (something that does not belong to you) ▪ The chairman was fired for *pocketing* funds. ▪ It turned out that they had *pocketed* [=*stolen*] most of the money that was supposed to go to victims of the fire. ▪ The saleswoman had overcharged them and *pocketed* the difference. **b** : to earn or win (something, such as money) ▪ a professional golfer who *pocketed* more than four million dollars in winnings

3 *US* : to ignore (an emotion or feeling) ▪ I had to *pocket* my pride and ask for some help.

4 *pool and billiards* : to hit (a ball) into a pocket of a pool table or billiard table ▪ She *pocketed* the eight ball.

[3]pocket *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : small enough to fit in a pocket ▪ a *pocket* calculator/dictionary

2 : carried in a pocket ▪ *pocket* change ▪ a *pocket* watch/handkerchief

pocket billiards *noun* [*noncount*] : [3]POOL 2

pock•et•book /'pɑ:kətˌbʊk/ *noun, pl* **-books** [*count*]

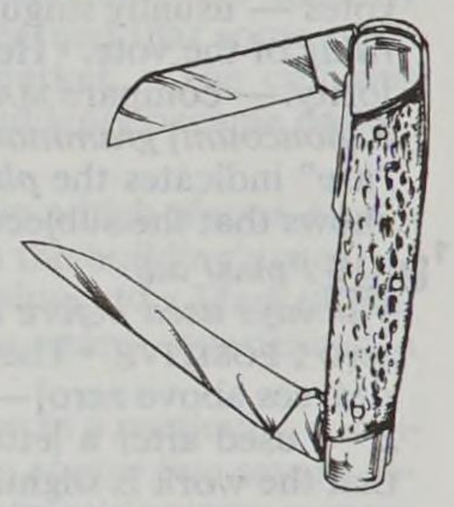
1 *US, somewhat old-fashioned* : a bag usually with handles and pockets that is used by women to carry money and personal belongings : PURSE, HANDBAG

2 *US* : the amount of money that someone has available to spend : someone's ability to pay for things ▪ The restaurant has meals priced to ***suit every pocketbook*** [=it has meals that everyone can afford] ▪ People ***vote their pocketbooks*** [=people vote according to how a candidate or issue will affect their financial situation]

3 *Brit* : NOTEBOOK 1

pock•et•ful /'pɑ:kətˌfʊl/ *noun, pl* **pock•et•fuls** *or* **pock•ets•ful** /'pɑ:kətsˌfʊl/ [*count*] : an amount of something that can be carried in a pocket ▪ He carried a *pocketful* of money.

pock•et•knife /'pɑ:kətˌnaɪf/ *noun, pl* **-knives** [*count*] : a small knife that has one or more blades that fold into the handle — called also *jackknife, penknife*



pocketknife

pocket money *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : a small amount of extra money ▪ She mowed lawns in the summers to earn *pocket money*. [=*spending money*]

2 *Brit* : money that is regularly given to children by their parents : money that children are given as an allowance

pock•et–size /'pɑ:kətˌsaɪz/ *also* **pock•et–sized** /'pɑ:kətˌsaɪzd/ *adj* : small enough to be carried in a pocket ▪ a *pocket-size* dictionary

pocket veto *noun, pl* ~ **-toes** [*count*] *US* : a method that the President can use to prevent a bill from becoming a law by not signing the bill before the session of Congress ends

pock•mark /'pɑ:kˌmɑ◞k/ *noun, pl* **-marks** [*count*]

1 : a mark or scar on the skin that is usually caused by a disease (such as chicken pox or acne)

2 : a hole in or mark on something ▪ The bullets left *pockmarks* in the wall.

– **pockmarked** /'pɑ:kˌmɑ◞kt/ *adj* ▪ A severe case of the chicken pox had left her badly *pockmarked*. ▪ The car was *pockmarked* [=*pocked*] with rust.

[1]pod /'pɑ:d/ *noun, pl* **pods** [*count*]

1 : a long, thin part of some plants that has seeds inside ▪ pea *pods* ▪ a seed *pod* ▪ Carob seeds grow in edible *pods*.

2 : a long, narrow area that is under the wings or body of an airplane and that is used to hold something (such as fuel or a jet engine)

3 : a part of a spacecraft that can be separated from the main part

4 : a case that contains the eggs of certain insects (such as grasshoppers)

two peas in a pod see PEA

– compare [2]POD

[2]pod *noun, pl* **pods** [*count*] : a group of ocean animals (such as whales) that are swimming together ▪ *pods* of whales/dolphins — compare [1]POD

PO'd /ˌpi:'oʊd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *US, informal* : very angry or annoyed at someone or something ▪ He was/got really *PO'd* [=(*impolite*) *pissed off*] when his date didn't show up.

podgy /'pɑ:ʤi/ *adj* **podg•i•er; -est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *Brit, informal* : PUDGY

po•di•a•trist /poʊ'dajətrɪst/ *noun, pl* **-trists** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a doctor who treats injuries and diseases of the foot — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *chiropodist*

– **po•di•a•try** /poʊ'dajətri/ *noun* [*noncount*]

po•di•um /ˈpoʊdijəm/ *noun, pl* **-ums** [*count*]
1 : a raised platform for a speaker, performer, or the leader of an orchestra
2 *US* : a stand with a slanted surface that holds a book, notes, etc., for someone who is reading, speaking, or teaching : LECTERN

Po•dunk *also* **po•dunk** /ˈpoʊˌdʌŋk/ *noun* [*singular*] *US, informal* : a small, unimportant town • folks who move to the big city from *Podunk* • a *Podunk* town

po•em /ˈpowəm/ *noun, pl* **-ems** [*count*] : a piece of writing that usually has figurative language and that is written in separate lines that often have a repeated rhythm and sometimes rhyme • a love/epic *poem* • He wrote a *poem* about his parents.

po•et /ˈpowət/ *noun, pl* **-ets** [*count*] : a person who writes poems

po•et•ess /ˈpowətəs/ *noun, pl* **-ess•es** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a girl or woman who writes poems

po•et•ic /poʊˈɛtɪk/ *also* **po•et•i•cal** /poʊˈɛtɪkəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : of, relating to, or characteristic of poets or poetry • *poetic* words • *poetic* meter
2 : having a beautiful or graceful quality • *poetic* language
– **po•et•i•cal•ly** /poʊˈɛtɪkli/ *adv* • a *poetically* written description of the forest

poetic justice *noun* [*noncount*] : a result or occurrence that seems proper because someone who has done bad things to other people is being harmed or punished • After the way he treated his staff, it was *poetic justice* that he lost his job.

poet laureate *noun, pl* **poets laureate** *or* **poet laureates** [*count*] : a poet who is honored by being chosen for an official position by a ruler or government

po•et•ry /ˈpowətri/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the writings of a poet : poems • I read the poem in a collection of modern *poetry*. • She's published two books of lyric *poetry* and a novel. • He found it easiest to express himself in the language of *poetry*. • He reads/writes *poetry*. • The bookstore holds a ***poetry reading*** [=an event in which people read poems that they have written aloud for a group] every Thursday night.
2 : something that is very beautiful or graceful • Her dancing is pure *poetry*.
poetry in motion : someone or something that moves in a way that is very graceful or beautiful • He is *poetry in motion* when he catches and throws the ball.

po–faced /ˈpoʊˌfeɪst/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *Brit, informal*
1 : having a serious expression on the face • a *po-faced* police officer
2 : too serious • the writer's *po-faced* [=*humorless*] style

po•go stick /ˈpoʊgoʊ-/ *noun, pl* **~ sticks** [*count*] : a toy that children use for bouncing up and down which consists of a pole with handles at the top, a strong spring at the bottom, and two pieces near the bottom to stand on

po•grom /pəˈgrɑːm, *Brit* ˈpɒgrəm/ *noun, pl* **-groms** [*count*] : the organized killing of many helpless people usually because of their race or religion

poi•gnant /ˈpoɪnjənt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : causing a strong feeling of sadness • a *poignant* moment • The photograph was a *poignant* reminder of her childhood.
– **poi•gnan•cy** /ˈpoɪnjənsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] • The anniversary of the flood has a special *poignancy* in the town that suffered the most damage. – **poi•gnant•ly** *adv*

poin•set•tia /poɪnˈsɛtijə/ *noun, pl* **-tias** [*count*] : a plant with large red, pink, or white leaves that look like petals — see color picture on page C6 ✧ Poinsettias are tropical plants but are often grown indoors in pots. Red poinsettias are especially popular at Christmastime.

[1]point /ˈpoɪnt/ *noun, pl* **points**
1 a [*count*] : an idea that you try to make other people accept or understand • She showed us several graphs to illustrate the *point* she was making. • I see your *point*, but I don't think everyone will agree. • There's no use in arguing the *point*. • He made a very good *point* about the need for change. • Let me make one final *point*. • That's the *point* I've been trying to make. • "What's your *point*?" "Actually, I have two *points*." • My *point* is simply that we must do something to help the homeless. • That's my *point* exactly. • Maybe there's a better way to ***get your point across***. [=to make people understand what you are saying] • He's willing to do almost anything to ***prove a point***. [=to show that he is right about something] • If you want to ***stretch a point*** [=exaggerate slightly], you could say that he is handsome. • "If we leave now, we won't make it back in time." "That's a ***good point***." • "You have to help them." "***Point taken***. [=I understand what you are saying] I'll do what I can." • I don't want to ***labor/belabor the point*** [=repeat myself too many times], but I think I should mention again that we are running out of time. **b** [*count*] : a particular detail of an idea or argument • There are two critical/crucial/key *points* that I would like to discuss. • There are several weak *points* in their theory. **c *the point*** : the main or most important idea of something that is said or written • It took several paragraphs for her to ***come/get to the point*** of her argument. • If you drive while drunk, you could lose your license, but even ***more to the point*** [=more importantly], you could kill someone. — see also TO THE POINT (below)
2 : a reason for doing something : PURPOSE [*singular*] Is there a *point* to/for all of this paperwork? — often + *of* • What's the *point of* having [=why have] a swimming pool if you never use it? — often + *in* • I saw no *point in* continuing the discussion. • There's no *point in* getting upset. [=there is no reason to get upset] [*noncount*] There's not much *point in* making rules if no one's going to follow them.
3 [*count*] : an individual detail or part of something • The only *point* at issue is when the meeting should be held. • Carefully consider each *point* in the witness's testimony. • We debated the ***fine/finer points*** of the law. • The main ***point of contention*** [=the main thing that people are arguing over] is who owns the rights to the land. — see also RALLYING POINT, SELLING POINT, STICKING POINT, TALKING POINT
4 [*count*] : a particular position, location, or place • We met at a *point* halfway between the two cities. • The sun reaches its highest *point* in the sky at noon. • the country's northernmost *point* • distant *points* in the solar system • Change trains here for all *points* south. • The break occurred at a weak *point* in the bone. • She showed us the old capital building and other ***points of interest***. • Ellis Island in Manhattan was the ***point of entry*** of many American immigrants. [=the place where many immigrants entered the U.S.] • The package's ***point of origin*** [=the place from where the package was sent] was somewhere in the U.S.
5 [*count*] : a particular time or a particular stage in the development of something — usually singular • At no *point* (in time) did the defendant ask for a lawyer. • By this *point* in the conversation, I was beginning to lose my patience. • I imagine the change will take place at some *point* in the next year or so. • We are approaching the cutoff *point* of the negotiations. • At that time, she enjoyed more success than at any other *point* in her career. • That was the high/low *point* of her career. • At this *point* in my life, I can't afford to take any risks. = I'm at a *point* in my life where I can't afford to take any risks. • It got to the *point* where we could no longer ignore his behavior. • The game had gone past the *point* of being fun. [=the game had stopped being fun] • We walked all day and were beyond the *point* of exhaustion. • The temperature will rise to 33 degrees Fahrenheit, ***at which point*** the ice will begin to melt. • It's the natural ***starting point*** for a discussion on how to help the homeless. • ***There comes a point*** in a man's life when he has to think seriously about his future. • ***From that point on*** [=beginning at that time], I took my studies more seriously. • ***From this point on***, any further changes must be approved by your supervisor. • ***Up to that point*** it had been a successful meeting. • The animals were hunted ***to the point of*** extinction. [=the animals were hunted until they were extinct] • She was ***at the point of*** leaving [=she was just about to leave] when he asked her to dance. • The police are ***on the point of*** solving the case. [=the police have almost solved the case] — see also BREAKING POINT, POINT OF NO RETURN, TURNING POINT
6 [*count*] **a** : a unit of measurement • Her blood pressure had risen 16 *points* since her last checkup. • Support for the President dropped three *points* [=*percent*] after the incident. • She is currently 10 *points* behind the leading candidate in the polls. • Interest rates have risen about two ***percentage points***. [=interest rates rose about two percent] — see also BOILING POINT, DEW POINT, FLASH POINT, FREEZING POINT, MELTING POINT **b** : a unit that is used to score a game or contest • We won (the game) by three *points*. • They scored 13 *points* in the first quarter. • She has to win this *point* in order to win the match. • She lost a *point* for falling off the balance beam. • A touchdown is worth six *points*. • He beat his opponent ***on points***. [=by winning more points than his opponent] — see also EXTRA POINT, GAME POINT, MATCH POINT, SET POINT
7 *points* [*plural*] *informal* : praise, credit, or approval for do-

P

ing something good or helpful ▪ She washed the car in order to score *points* [=*brownie points*] with her father. ▪ He's not too smart, but he gets *points* for effort. [=he should be given credit for the effort he makes]

8 [*count*] : the usually sharp end of something (such as a sword, needle, or pencil) ▪ the sharp *point* [=*tip*] of the needle ▪ She sharpened the pencil down ***to a point***. ▪ The alligator's tail tapers *to a point*.

9 [*count*] : a small dot ▪ We see the stars and planets as tiny *points* of light. ▪ a line drawn between two *points*

10 [*count*] : DECIMAL POINT — used especially in speech to say a number that includes a decimal point ▪ The number 9.5 is read aloud as "nine *point* five." ▪ He had a temperature of one hundred and four *point* two. [=104.2] ▪ You're listening to ninety-three *point* nine [=93.9] FM.

11 [*count*] : any one of the 32 marks on a compass that are used for showing directions ▪ The *point* SSW is between the *points* S and SW. ▪ The ***cardinal points*** [=the four main directions] are North, South, East, and West.

12 [*count*] : a piece of land that sticks out into a lake, ocean, etc. ▪ The light was coming from the lighthouse on the *point*. — sometimes used in names ▪ Montauk *Point* is at the eastern tip of Long Island.

13 [*count*] *Brit* : OUTLET 4

14 [*count*] : a unit that measures the size of letters typed on a computer or printed in a published work ▪ Your essays should be double-spaced and written in 12-*point* type.

beside the point see BESIDE

from point A to point B see [1]A

in point of *formal* : when considering (a particular quality) : with regard to (something) ▪ The two painters differ greatly *in point of* skill. [=the level of their skill is very different] ▪ Some people think that all fat is unhealthy to eat when, ***in point of fact*** [=in truth, in actuality], some types of fat are good for you.

make a point ✧ If you ***make a point of*** doing something or ***make it a point*** to do something, you give your attention to it so that you are sure that it happens. ▪ She *makes a point of* treating her employees fairly. = She *makes it a point to* treat her employees fairly.

not to put too fine a point on it see [1]FINE

on point *US* : relating very well to the subject that is being discussed : accurate and appropriate ▪ His criticisms about the war were very much *on point*. ▪ Her message is (right) *on point*.

to the point : relating to the thing that is being thought about or discussed ▪ Please keep your questions brief and *to the point*. — see also [1]POINT 1c (above)

up to a point — used to indicate that a statement is partly but not completely true ▪ I understand his feelings *up to a point*. [=*to some extent*] ▪ Competition is good but only *up to a* certain *point*.

– see also CASE IN POINT, EXCLAMATION POINT, PRICE POINT

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[2]point *verb* points; point•ed; point•ing

1 : to show someone where to look by moving your finger or an object held in your hand in a particular direction [*no obj*] "It's not polite to *point*," she said. ▪ When I asked the child where his mother was, he *pointed* in the direction of the house. ▪ *Pointing* with his cane, the old man asked, "Whose dog is that?" — often + *at* ▪ It's not polite to *point at* people. ▪ All the kids were *pointing* and laughing *at* me. ▪ She *pointed at* the map on the wall. ▪ "It's time to leave," he said *pointing at* his watch. — often + *to* ▪ She *pointed to* me and asked me to stand up. — often + *toward* ▪ He *pointed toward* the door. [+ *obj*] She *pointed* her finger *at* the door. — see also FINGER-POINTING

2 [+ *obj*] : to cause the front or tip of (something) to be turned toward someone or something ▪ *Point* [=*aim*] the flashlight into the hole. ▪ They *pointed* their microphones in my direction. — often + *at* ▪ She *pointed* her camera *at* us. ▪ A gun was *pointed at* his head.

3 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to have the end or tip extended, aimed, or turned in a specified direction ▪ We can leave when the minute hand *points* to 12. ▪ Stand with your arms at your sides and your hands *pointing* downward. ▪ The ship was *pointing* into the wind.

4 *computers* : to use a mouse or other device to move the pointer on a computer screen to a particular object or place [+ *obj*] Just *point* the arrow on the icon and click. [*no obj*] Just *point* and click.

5 [+ *obj*] : to show (someone) which direction to travel in order to reach a particular place : to direct (someone) toward something ▪ She *pointed* him to the school's library. ▪ Could you *point* me in the direction of the train station? ▪ If you just *point* me in the general direction, I think I can find it.

6 [+ *obj*] : to give a sharp end to (something) ▪ He was *pointing* [=(more commonly) *sharpening*] a stick with a knife.

7 [+ *obj*] : to repair (a wall, chimney, etc.) by putting new cement or other material between the bricks or stones ▪ The wall needs to be *pointed*.

point an accusing finger at, point a/the finger at see [1]FINGER

point out [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***point out (someone or something)*** *or* ***point (someone or something) out*** : to direct someone's attention to (someone or something) by pointing ▪ He *pointed* his girlfriend *out* in the crowd. ▪ Could you *point out* the restrooms, please. ▪ We asked her to *point out* (to us) her country on the map. ▪ He *pointed out* the houses of famous people as we drove by. ▪ He *pointed out* the way to the restrooms. **2** ***point out (something)*** *or* ***point (something) out*** : to talk about or mention (something that you think is important) ▪ Let me *point out* [=*mention*] a few things before we switch topics. ▪ He was quick to *point* our mistake *out*. ▪ He *pointed out* the benefits/importance of daily exercise. ▪ As she likes to *point out*, she distrusted him from the beginning. ▪ I would like to *point out* that no one is perfect. ▪ He *pointed out* that there are several advantages to owning your own home.

point the way : to show the way to go in order to get somewhere ▪ She *pointed the way* to the exit. — often used figuratively ▪ We led good lives, and we must thank our parents for *pointing the way*. ▪ Their work *pointed the way* for future scientific research.

point to [*phrasal verb*] ***point to (something)*** : to mention or refer to (something) as a way of supporting an argument or claim ▪ The prosecution is unable to *point to* anything that proves its case. ▪ I can *point to* several past accomplishments that show that I can perform the job well.

point to/toward [*phrasal verb*] ***point to/toward (someone or something)*** : to show that something is true or probably true ▪ All the evidence *points to* him as the murderer. [=all the evidence indicates that he is the murderer] ▪ Her symptoms *point to* diabetes. [=her symptoms suggest that she has diabetes] ▪ Everything *points to* a bright future for their company. ▪ The results from these tests *point toward* a different conclusion.

point up [*phrasal verb*] ***point up (something)*** *or* ***point (something) up*** *formal* : to bring attention to (something) : to highlight or emphasize (something) ▪ The speaker *pointed up* the importance of improving public education. ▪ The destruction caused by the earthquake *points up* the need for improvements in construction standards.

point your toes : to bend your foot down so that the top of it and the front of your leg form a straight line ▪ She forgot to *point her toes* when she dove into the water.

point–and–click *adj, computers* : used by pointing to images on a computer screen and pressing a mouse or other device ▪ *point-and-click* links ▪ a *point-and-click* interface

point–and–shoot *adj, of a camera* : having simple controls that do not need to be changed by the user and that make it possible to take pictures easily ▪ *point-and-shoot* cameras/camcorders

point–blank /ˈpɔɪntˈblæŋk/ *adv*

1 : from a very close distance ▪ The victim was shot *point-blank* in the head.

2 : in a direct and open way that does not hide anything ▪ He told me *point-blank* [=*bluntly, outright*] that he didn't believe me. ▪ I asked her *point-blank* what she wanted. ▪ She refused him *point-blank*.

– **point–blank** *adj* ▪ a *point–blank* question/refusal ▪ a *point-blank* shot to the goal ▪ The shots were taken at/from *point-blank* range.

pointe *also* **pointes** /ˈpwænt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a ballet position in which the dancer stands on the ends of the toes ▪ a ballerina on *pointe*

point•ed /ˈpɔɪntəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 a : ending in a point ▪ a sharply *pointed* pencil ▪ the long *pointed* [=*pointy*] leaves of a willow tree ▪ *pointed* rocks ▪ He had a mustache and a short *pointed* beard. **b** : having a particular number of points — used in combination ▪ a six-*pointed* star

2 : clearly directed toward a particular person or group ▪ *pointed* remarks/criticism ▪ He made a *pointed* reference to his mother-in-law.

3 : very easy to see or notice ▪ She reacted to the news with *pointed* indifference.
– **point•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *pointedness* of their remarks

point•ed•ly /ˈpɔɪntədli/ *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : in a way that is very easy to see or notice ▪ He *pointedly* ignored the question. ▪ She *pointedly* refused to go to their party.

point•er /ˈpɔɪntɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a useful suggestion about how to do or understand something better ▪ She got some *pointers* [=*hints, tips*] about the use of commas. ▪ Let me give you a few *pointers* on managing a successful business.
2 *Brit* : a sign that shows the condition or existence of something : INDICATOR ▪ The latest data gives a *pointer* to the economy's overall growth. ▪ This may be a *pointer* to a very serious problem.
3 : a thin stick that a person uses to show people where to look on a screen, map, etc.
4 *computers* : a small object (such as an arrow or cursor) that is moved on a computer screen by a mouse and that is used to make selections or change where work is being done
5 : a large dog that has long ears and short hair and that is trained to work with hunters by finding and pointing toward hunted animals with its head and body

point guard *noun, pl* ~ **guards** [*count*] *basketball* : a player who is one of the two guards on a team and is the one most responsible for leading the team when it has the ball and is trying to score

poin•til•lism /ˈpɔɪntəˌlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a style of painting in which a picture is formed from small dots of color
– **poin•til•list** /ˈpɔɪntəlɪst/ *adj* ▪ a *pointillist* painting
– **pointillist** *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*]

point•ing /ˈpɔɪntɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the material that is used to fill the cracks between the bricks of a wall, chimney, etc.

point•less /ˈpɔɪntləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having no meaning, purpose, or effect ▪ He made a few more *pointless* [=*meaningless, senseless*] remarks. ▪ a *pointless* exercise ▪ It would be *pointless* for us to continue the investigation. ▪ It's *pointless* [=*useless*] to argue with her. ▪ a *pointless* killing
– **point•less•ly** *adv* ▪ Her answer was *pointlessly* complicated. – **point•less•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

point man *noun, pl* ~ **men** [*count*] *chiefly US* : the main person who speaks for or supports someone or something ▪ He's the President's *point man* on national defense.

point of departure *noun, pl* **points of departure** [*count*] : a starting point in a discussion, project, etc. ▪ The study will be a *point of departure* [=*jumping-off point*] for future research.

point of honor *noun, pl* **points of honor** [*count*] : something that you do because you believe it is the right and honorable thing to do ▪ My father considers it a *point of honor* to finish any project he starts.

point of no return *noun* [*singular*] : the time when it becomes no longer possible for you to make a different decision or to return to an earlier place or state ▪ If you've signed the contract, you've already reached the *point of no return*.

point of order *noun, pl* **points of order** [*count*] *formal* : a question or statement about the way things should be done at a meeting, debate, etc. ▪ The senator raised a *point of order* demanding that debate be allowed to continue.

point of reference *noun, pl* **points of reference** [*count*] : something that is used to judge or understand something else ▪ The professor used the study as a *point of reference* for evaluating and discussing other theories.

point of view *noun, pl* **points of view** [*count*] : a way of looking at or thinking about something : VIEWPOINT ▪ Even if you disagree with her, you should try to see things from her *point of view*. [=*perspective*] ▪ They considered/approached the problem from opposite *points of view*. ▪ From a strictly financial *point of view*, selling the house makes sense.

point person *noun, pl* ~ **people** [*count*] *chiefly US* : POINT MAN

point spread *noun, pl* ~ **spreads** [*count*] *US, sports* : the number of points by which a team is expected to win in a particular game

pointy /ˈpɔɪnti/ *adj* **point•i•er; -est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : having a somewhat sharp end : ending in a point ▪ a *pointy* nose ▪ *pointy* shoes = shoes with *pointy* toes

[1]poise /ˈpɔɪz/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a calm, confident manner ▪ She kept her *poise* even when under attack. ▪ He behaved with *poise* and dignity.
2 : a graceful way of walking, moving, standing, etc. ▪ Strength and flexibility are important for good *poise* and posture. ▪ a dancer of great *poise* and grace

[2]poise *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **poises; poised; pois•ing** [+ *obj*] : to hold (something) in a balanced and steady position ▪ She *poised* her pencil above the paper and waited for the signal to begin writing.

poised *adj*
1 *not used before a noun* : not moving but ready to move ▪ The actors were *poised* on the stage, ready for the curtain to come up. ▪ She held the pencil *poised* over/above the paper.
2 *not used before a noun* : ready or prepared for something ▪ The company is *poised* for success. ▪ She seemed *poised* to take on the leadership of the country. ▪ He is now *poised* to become the next big star in country music.
3 *not used before a noun* : in a state, place, or situation that is *between* two different or opposite things ▪ a city *poised between* the mountains and the sea ▪ a group of people *poised between* hope and fear
4 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing a calm, confident manner ▪ a very *poised* young woman

[1]poi•son /ˈpɔɪzn̩/ *noun, pl* **-sons**
1 : a substance that can cause people or animals to die or to become very sick if it gets into their bodies especially by being swallowed [*noncount*] a jar of rat *poison* ▪ The killer gave her victims food laced with *poison*. ▪ suck *poison* from a snake bite ▪ The villain in the play dies by drinking a vial of *poison*. [*count*] deadly *poisons*
2 : something (such as an idea, emotion, or situation) that is very harmful or unpleasant [*noncount*] Jealousy is relationship *poison*. [=jealousy can destroy a relationship] ▪ Hiring a carpenter is expensive and doing it yourself is slow. ***Pick/Choose your poison***. [=neither choice is good but you have to choose one] [*count*] Poverty is a *poison* to society.
what's your poison? *informal + old-fashioned* — used to ask what kind of alcoholic drink someone wants to be served

[2]poison *verb* **-sons; -soned; -son•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 a : to cause (a person or animal) to die or to become very sick with poison ▪ How did the murderer *poison* the victim? ▪ Hundreds were *poisoned* from drinking the contaminated water. ▪ He was *poisoned* with cyanide. **b** : to put a harmful or deadly substance in or on (something) ▪ The factory *poisoned* the air with its fumes. ▪ Illegal dumping of waste is *poisoning* the stream and killing fish. ▪ The food was *poisoned*.
2 : to change (something) in a very harmful or unpleasant way ▪ He *poisoned* their minds with hatred for her. ▪ They let the disagreement *poison* [=*destroy*] their friendship. ▪ His angry outburst *poisoned* the atmosphere of the party. ▪ She was working in a hostile environment *poisoned* by sexist jokes.
poisoned chalice see CHALICE
– **poi•son•er** /ˈpɔɪzn̩ɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
– **poisoning** *noun, pl* **-ings** [*noncount*] alcohol/lead *poisoning* [=illness caused by having too much alcohol/lead in your body] ▪ carbon monoxide *poisoning* [*count*] *poisonings* caused by bacteria — see also BLOOD POISONING, FOOD POISONING

poison gas *noun* [*noncount*] : gas that can cause a person to die or to become very sick : poisonous gas

poison ivy *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a common plant in the central and eastern U.S. that has leaves which cause a very itchy and painful rash on your skin if you touch them
2 : the rash that is caused by poison ivy ▪ I got/have *poison ivy* all over my arm.

poison oak *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a common bush in the western U.S. that causes a very itchy and painful rash on your skin if you touch it
2 : POISON IVY

poi•son•ous /ˈpɔɪzn̩əs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 a : causing sickness or death by entering or touching the body : containing poison ▪ *poisonous* mushrooms ▪ The leaves of the plant are *poisonous*. [=*toxic*] ▪ Chocolate is *poisonous* to dogs. **b** : capable of putting poison into another animal's body by biting it ▪ This species of spider is extremely *poisonous*. ▪ *poisonous* snakes
2 : very harmful or unpleasant ▪ *poisonous* rumors ▪ He was in a particularly *poisonous* [=*nasty*] mood last night.
– **poi•son•ous•ly** *adv*

poison–pen letter *noun, pl* ~ **-ters** [*count*] : a very harsh

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or critical letter written to someone and usually not signed ▪ The mayor received some *poison-pen letters* after he fired several city employees.

poison pill *noun, pl* ~ **pills** [*count*] *business* : something that a company does to make itself less valuable or appealing in order to avoid being bought by another company — often used before another noun ▪ a *poison pill* defense/plan

poison su•mac /-ˈʃuːˌmæk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a common bush in the eastern U.S. and Canada that causes a very itchy and painful rash on your skin if you touch it

[1]poke /ˈpoʊk/ *verb* **pokes**; **poked**; **pok•ing**

1 a : to push your finger or something thin or pointed into or at someone or something [+ *obj*] He *poked* a stick at the snake. = He *poked* the snake with a stick. ▪ He *poked* [=*jabbed*] me in the ribs. ▪ I accidentally *poked* my finger right through the old fabric. ▪ Throwing pencils is not allowed because someone's eye could get *poked* out. [*no obj*] — often + *at* ▪ She *poked at* the sand with her toes. **b** [+ *obj*] : to make (a hole) in something by pushing something sharp or pointed through or into it — usually + *in* ▪ As a practical joke, she *poked* holes *in* the bottom of some of the paper cups. ▪ He used a fork to *poke* holes *in* the potatoes.

2 : to stick out so that a part can be seen [*no obj*] — often + *out* ▪ Your toe is *poking out* through the hole in your sock. — often + *through* ▪ You can see the seedlings beginning to *poke through* the soil. ▪ After days of rain, sunshine finally *poked through* the clouds. [+ *obj*] — often + *out* ▪ She *poked* her head *out* the window and yelled down to us.

poke along [*phrasal verb*] *US, informal* : to move along very slowly ▪ They were just *poking along* towards home. ▪ The car *poked along* down the street.

poke around *or Brit* ***poke about*** [*phrasal verb*] ***poke around/about*** *or* ***poke around/about (something)*** *informal* : to look around or search through something ▪ The police found him *poking around* (in) the deserted house. ▪ He *poked around* in his closet for something to wear to the party. ▪ She's in the kitchen *poking around* for something to eat. — often used figuratively ▪ I don't want you *poking around* in my personal life.

poke fun at see [1]FUN

poke your nose in/into see [1]NOSE

[2]poke *noun, pl* **pokes** [*count*]

1 : a quick push with your finger or with something thin or pointed — usually singular ▪ She gave my arm a quick *poke* [=*jab*] to tell me it was my turn.

2 *US, informal* : a usually minor criticism or insult that is directed toward a particular person or group — usually singular ▪ She thanked everyone in her speech but she couldn't resist ***taking a poke at*** the people who said the movie would never succeed.

a pig in a poke see [1]PIG

[1]po•ker /ˈpoʊkɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a card game in which players bet money on the value of their cards — compare [2]POKER

[2]pok•er /ˈpoʊkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a metal rod for moving coal or wood in a fire — compare [1]POKER

poker face *noun, pl* ~ **faces** [*count*] : an expression on your face that does not show your thoughts or feelings — usually singular ▪ She maintained her *poker face* even after she heard the bad news.

– **po•ker–faced** /ˈpoʊkɚˌfeɪst/ *adj* ▪ Her usually *poker-faced* boss gave her a big smile when he told her she was being promoted.

po•key /ˈpoʊki/ *noun*

the pokey *US slang, old-fashioned* : PRISON ▪ He spent six months in *the pokey*.

poky *or* **pok•ey** /ˈpoʊki/ *adj* **pokier**; **-est** *informal*

1 *US* : very slow ▪ a *poky* old car ▪ Stop being so *poky*.

2 *Brit, of a room or building* : small and uncomfortable ▪ a *poky* little room

pol /ˈpɑːl/ *noun, pl* **pols** [*count*] *US, informal* : POLITICIAN ▪ Many of the city's residents have criticized local *pols* for their decision to close the public library.

Po•lack /ˈpoʊˌlɑːk/ *noun, pl* **-lacks** [*count*] *US, informal* + *offensive* : a Polish person ✧ The word *Polack* is very offensive and should be avoided.

po•lar /ˈpoʊlɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : of or relating to the North or South Pole or the region around it ▪ *polar* ice caps

2 : completely different or opposite ▪ They took *polar* positions on the issue. ▪ She and I are good friends even though we're ***polar opposites***.

3 *technical* : relating to one or both of the poles of a magnet

polar bear *noun, pl* ~ **bears** [*count*] : a large white bear that lives near the North Pole — see picture at BEAR

po•lar•i•ty /poʊˈlerəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*count, noncount*]

1 *formal* : a state in which two ideas, opinions, etc., are completely opposite or very different from each other ▪ There is (a) considerable *polarity* of opinion on this issue. [=there are two sides with completely different opinions on this issue]

2 *physics* : the condition of having positive and negative charges and especially magnetic or electrical poles

po•lar•ize *also Brit* **po•lar•ise** /ˈpoʊləˌraɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es**; **-ized**; **-iz•ing**

1 : to cause (people, opinions, etc.) to separate into opposing groups [+ *obj*] The war has *polarized* the nation. [*no obj*] The current debate *polarizes* along lines of class and race.

2 [+ *obj*] *physics* : to cause (something, such as light waves) to vibrate in a particular pattern ▪ a filter that *polarizes* light = a *polarizing* filter

3 [+ *obj*] *physics* : to cause (something) to have positive and negative charges : to give polarity to (something) ▪ *polarize* atoms ▪ *polarize* a magnet

– **po•lar•i•za•tion** *also Brit* **po•lar•i•sa•tion** /ˌpoʊlərəˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌpəʊləˌraɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

Po•lar•oid /ˈpoʊləˌrɔɪd/ *trademark* — used for a material that is used chiefly in eyeglasses to prevent glare and for a camera that produces developed pictures

[1]pole /ˈpoʊl/ *noun, pl* **poles** [*count*] : a long, straight piece of wood, metal, etc., that is often placed in the ground so that it stands straight up ▪ They have a couple of bird feeders hanging from a *pole* in the backyard. ▪ A *pole* was blocking their view of the field. ▪ He connected the *poles* of the tent. ▪ a fishing *pole* [=*rod*] ▪ I ***wouldn't touch it with a 10-foot pole***. [=I do not want to get near it; I do not want to discuss it or be involved with it at all] — see also FLAGPOLE, MAYPOLE, TELEGRAPH POLE, TELEPHONE POLE, TOTEM POLE

up the pole *Brit, informal* : CRAZY ▪ The pressure of his job nearly drove him *up the pole*.

– compare [3]POLE

[2]pole *verb* **poles**; **poled**; **pol•ing** [+ *obj*] : to move (a boat) by using a pole to push against the bottom of a river, lake, etc. ▪ *pole* a boat

[3]pole *noun, pl* **poles** [*count*]

1 : either end of the imaginary line around which something (such as the earth) turns — see also NORTH POLE, SOUTH POLE

2 *technical* **a** : either one of the two ends of a magnet **b** : the positive point or the negative point on a battery

3 : either one of two opposite positions, situations, etc. ▪ When it comes to politics, we're on opposite *poles*. ▪ They were on opposite *poles* of the argument.

poles apart : as far apart or as different as possible ▪ Though they were generally *poles apart* politically, they did agree on this one issue.

– compare [1]POLE

Pole /ˈpoʊl/ *noun, pl* **Poles** [*count*] : a Polish person

pole•ax (*US*) *or Brit* **pole•axe** /ˈpoʊlˌæks/ *verb* **-ax•es**; **-axed**; **-ax•ing** [+ *obj*] : to hit and knock down (someone) ▪ He went down as if he'd been *poleaxed*. — often used figuratively ▪ I was *poleaxed* [=shocked and stunned] by the horrible news. ▪ The department has been *poleaxed* by cutbacks.

pole bean *noun, pl* ~ **beans** [*count*] *US* : a bean plant that grows up a pole, fence, etc.; *also* : the bean that grows on this plant

pole•cat /ˈpoʊlˌkæt/ *noun, pl* **-cats** [*count*]

1 : a European animal that has dark brown fur and a long thin body and that gives off a bad smell to defend itself

2 *US, informal* : SKUNK

po•lem•ic /pəˈlɛmɪk/ *noun, pl* **-ics** *formal*

1 [*count*] : a strong written or spoken attack against someone else's opinions, beliefs, practices, etc. ▪ Her book is a fierce *polemic* against the inequalities in our society.

2 ***polemics*** [*plural*] : the art or practice of using language to defend or harshly criticize something or someone ▪ They managed to discuss the issues without resorting to *polemics*.

– **po•lem•i•cal** /pəˈlɛmɪkəl/ *also* **po•lem•ic** /pəˈlɛmɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *polemical* writing ▪ I don't like the book's *polemical* tone. – **po•lem•i•cal•ly** /pəˈlɛmɪkli/ *adv*

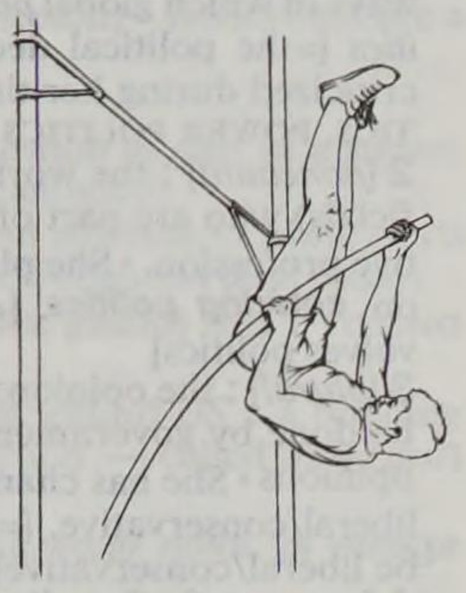
po•lem•i•cist /pəˈlɛməsɪst/ *noun, pl* **-cists** [*count*] : a person who is good at making forceful arguments in speech or writing ▪ She has a reputation as a fierce *polemicist*.

pole position *noun, pl* ~ **-tions** [*count, noncount*] : the front position at the start of a car race ▪ He won the *pole po-*

sition by having the fastest qualifying time.

Pole Star *noun*
the Pole Star : NORTH STAR

pole vault *noun*
the pole vault : an athletic event in which people compete by using a pole to jump over a bar that is high above the ground
– **pole–vault** *verb* **-vaults**; **-vault•ed**; **-vault•ing** [*no obj*]
– **pole–vault•er** *noun, pl* **-ers**



pole vault

[1]po•lice /pə'li:s/ *noun* [*plural*] : the people or the department of people who enforce laws, investigate crimes, and make arrests ▪ (The) *Police* blocked the street to clear a path for the parade. ▪ *Police* arrested a man whom they identified as the murderer. ▪ In case of emergency, call the *police*. [=(*US*) the police department] ▪ I was pulled over by the state *police* [=by state police officers] for speeding. ▪ the ***chief of police*** [=the chief of the police department] — often used before another noun ▪ He applied for a job with the New York *Police* Department. ▪ They were arrested for interfering with a *police* investigation. ▪ According to the *police* report the thieves broke in around midnight. ▪ The mayor attempted to cover up what was a clear case of *police* brutality. [=physical abuse by police officers] ▪ the *police* academy/chief ▪ He is in *police* custody. [=he is being held by the police] — see also MILITARY POLICE, SECRET POLICE
help the police with their inquiries see INQUIRY

[2]police *verb* **-lic•es**; **-liced**; **-lic•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to control and keep order in (an area) by the use of police or military forces ▪ The officers *police* the streets for reckless drivers. ▪ The coast is *policed* by the military.
2 : to control (something) by making sure that rules and regulations are being followed ▪ The international agency *polices* the development of atomic energy facilities.
– **policing** /pə'li:sɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Community *policing* has helped cut down on crime in the neighborhood. ▪ The industry is operating without adequate *policing*.

police car *noun, pl* ~ **cars** [*count*] : a car used by police officers — called also (*US*) *cruiser*, (*US*) *police cruiser*, *squad car*

police constable *noun, pl* ~ **-stables** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a police officer of the lowest rank — abbr. *PC* — called also *constable*

police dog *noun, pl* ~ **dogs** [*count*] : a dog that is trained to help police find criminals and illegal drugs

police force *noun, pl* ~ **forces** [*count*] : the police organization in a particular area ▪ He joined the local *police force*.

po•lice•man /pə'li:smən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a man who is a police officer

police officer *noun, pl* ~ **-cers** [*count*] : a person whose job is to enforce laws, investigate crimes, and make arrests : a member of the police

police state *noun, pl* ~ **states** [*count*] : a country in which the activities of the people are strictly controlled by the government with the help of a police force

police station *noun, pl* ~ **-tions** [*count*] : a place where local police officers work ▪ They brought him down to the *police station* for questioning. — called also *station house*

po•lice•wom•an /pə'li:s,wʊmən/ *noun, pl* **-wom•en** /-,wɪmən/ [*count*] : a woman who is a police officer

[1]pol•i•cy /'pɑ:ləsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies**
1 : an officially accepted set of rules or ideas about what should be done [*count*] Ask the cashier what the store's return *policy* is. ▪ They voted to adopt/pursue more liberal trade *policies*. [*noncount*] Each employee is given a handbook on company *policy*. ▪ American ***foreign policy***
2 : an idea or belief that guides the way you live or behave [*count*] — usually singular ▪ I make it a *policy* not to lend my friends money. [=I don't lend my friends money] [*noncount*] I don't lend my friends money as a matter of *policy*.
honesty is the best policy see HONESTY
– compare [2]POLICY

[2]policy *noun, pl* **-cies** [*count*] : a document that contains the agreement that an insurance company and a person have made ▪ Property damage caused by fire is not covered under this *policy*. — compare [1]POLICY

pol•i•cy•hold•er /'pɑ:ləsi,hoʊldɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who owns an insurance policy

po•lio /'poʊlijoʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a serious disease that affects the nerves of the spine and often makes a person permanently unable to move particular muscles — called also *infantile paralysis*, *poliomyelitis*

po•lio•my•eli•tis /,poʊlijoʊ,majə'lartəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : POLIO

[1]pol•ish /'pɑ:lɪʃ/ *verb* **-ish•es**; **-ished**; **-ish•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to make (something) smooth and shiny by rubbing it ▪ He *polished* his shoes. ▪ She *polished* the silverware.
2 : to improve (something) : to make (something) better than it was before ▪ He spent the summer *polishing* his math skills. — often + *up* ▪ Your essay needs to be *polished up*. = You need to *polish up* your essay. ▪ They *polished up* [=practiced singing/playing] some old songs for the performance.
3 : to put nail polish on (a fingernail or toenail) ▪ I *polished* her fingernails for her. [=I painted her nails with nail polish]
polish off [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***polish (something) off*** *or* ***polish off (something)*** *informal* : to finish (something) completely ▪ We *polished off* the whole pie. ▪ He had *polished off* the book before bed. **2** ***polish (someone or something) off*** *or* ***polish off (someone or something)*** : to defeat (someone or something) in a contest, game, etc. ▪ They *polished off* the visiting team, 6–0.
– **pol•ish•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a floor *polisher* [=a piece of equipment that is used to make a floor smooth and shiny] ▪ She worked as a diamond *polisher*. — see also APPLE POLISHER

[2]polish *noun, pl* **-ishes**
1 : a substance that is rubbed on a surface to make it smooth and shiny [*noncount*] I need more shoe/furniture *polish*. [*count*] Did you use a wax *polish* on the table or an oil-based one? — see also NAIL POLISH
2 [*singular*] : a smooth and shiny surface ▪ Buff the floor ***to a polish***. [=until it has a smooth and shiny surface] ▪ The stone ***takes a high polish***. [=the stone can become very shiny when it is polished]
3 [*noncount*] **a** : good quality or style that comes from practice or effort ▪ The movie has the *polish* we've come to expect from that director. ▪ His performance lacked *polish*. **b** *somewhat old-fashioned* : good manners ▪ He's rude and lacks *polish*.
4 [*singular*] : the act of polishing something ▪ She gave the statue a quick *polish*. — see also SPIT AND POLISH

Pol•ish /'poʊlɪʃ/ *noun*
1 [*noncount*] : the language of Poland ▪ Do you speak *Polish*?
2 ***the Polish*** : the people of Poland ▪ a tradition of *the Polish* [=*Poles*]
– **Polish** *adj* ▪ She is *Polish*. ▪ *Polish* food/traditions

polished *adj*
1 : made smooth and shiny by polishing ▪ *polished* silver/granite ▪ brightly *polished* fingernails
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very impressive or skillful ▪ This is a highly/very *polished* piece of writing. ▪ The dancers gave a *polished* [=*excellent*] performance. ▪ She is a *polished* actress.
3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] *somewhat old-fashioned* : very polite : having good manners ▪ a *polished* gentleman

po•lit•bu•ro /'pɑ:lət,bjɚoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-ros** [*count*] : the main group of people in a Communist government who make decisions about policy

po•lite /pə'laɪt/ *adj* **po•lit•er**; **-est** [*or more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having or showing good manners or respect for other people ▪ Your children are very *polite*. [=they behave well with other people] ▪ It was *polite* of him to hold the door for them. ▪ Please be *polite* to the guests. ▪ It isn't *polite* to interrupt people when they're talking. ▪ He said he liked the show, but he was only being *polite*. [=he did not like the show, but he said that he did in order to show good manners] ▪ When she called the painting "unique" that was just a *polite* [=*nice*] way of saying she didn't like it. ▪ She received some *polite* applause despite the mistakes in her performance. ▪ They had been fighting, but they were able to make *polite* [=*civil*] conversation at dinner.
2 *always used before a noun* : socially correct or proper ▪ ***polite speech*** [=somewhat formal speech that is not offensive and can be used in all situations] ▪ Certain words should not be used in ***polite society/company***. [=with people who value good manners]
– **po•lite•ly** *adv* ▪ She asked them *politely* to leave. = She *politely* asked them to leave. ▪ He is not, ***to put it politely*** [=to say this in a way that shows good manners], the best guitar player in the world. – **po•lite•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She

only did it ***out of politeness*** [=to be polite; because she wanted to show good manners]

pol•i•tic /'pɑ:lə,tɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : showing good judgment especially in dealing with other people ▪ It would not be *politic* to ignore them. ▪ a *politic* [=*tactful*] answer/decision — see also BODY POLITIC

po•lit•i•cal /pə'lɪtɪkəl/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to politics or government ▪ the American *political* system [=the way the American government is officially organized, managed, etc.] ▪ The senator has changed *political* parties. ▪ Health care has become a major *political* issue in recent years. ▪ a *political* leader ▪ *political* ambition ▪ a group of *political* activists ▪ economic and *political* power ▪ *political* reform ▪ We need a *political* solution rather than a military solution.

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : interested in or active in politics ▪ She is very *political*.

3 *always used before a noun* : involving, concerned with, or accused of acts against a government ▪ *political* prisoners [=people who are put in prison because of their political beliefs and activities] ▪ a *political* crime

4 : relating to the things people do to gain or keep power or an advantage within a group, organization, etc. ▪ His promotion was entirely *political*. [=he was promoted because a powerful person wanted him to be promoted and not because he was qualified] ▪ She claims that she was fired for *political* reasons.

political football see FOOTBALL

– po•lit•i•cal•ly /pə'lɪtɪkli/ *adv* ▪ She's *politically* liberal/conservative. ▪ It is a *politically* sensitive issue. ▪ *Politically*, the country is divided. ▪ The students are very *politically* active. ▪ a *politically* motivated crime

political action committee *noun, pl* ~ **-tees** [*count*] *US* : a group that is formed to give money to the political campaigns of people who are likely to make decisions that would benefit the group's interests ▪ The governor received over $3 million in campaign contributions from *political action committees*. — called also *PAC*

politically correct *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *sometimes disapproving* : agreeing with the idea that people should be careful to not use language or behave in a way that could offend a particular group of people ▪ *politically correct* language/terms ▪ He later realized that his response was not *politically correct*. — abbr. *PC*

– political correctness *noun* [*noncount*]

politically incorrect *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not avoiding language or behavior that could offend a particular group of people ▪ a *politically incorrect* comment ▪ *politically incorrect* humor

– political incorrectness *noun* [*noncount*]

political science *noun* [*noncount*] : the study of governments and how they work ▪ a degree in *political science*

– political scientist *noun, pl* ~ **-tists** [*count*] ▪ *Political scientists* offered their views on the President's policies.

pol•i•ti•cian /,pɑ:lə'tɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-cians** [*count*] : someone who is active in government usually as an elected official

po•lit•i•cize *also Brit* **po•lit•i•cise** /pə'lɪtə,saɪz/ *verb* **-ciz•es**; **-cized**; **-ciz•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *disapproving* : to relate (an idea, issue, etc.) to politics in a way that makes people less likely to agree ▪ They have *politicized* the budget process. — often used as *(be) politicized* ▪ Many people have expressed concerns that the investigation has *been politicized*. ▪ Health care has become a highly *politicized* issue in recent years.

2 : to cause (someone) to become involved or interested in government or politics — usually used as *(be) politicized* ▪ students *politicized* by the war

– po•lit•i•ci•za•tion *also Brit* **po•lit•i•ci•sa•tion** /pə,lɪtəsə'zeɪʃən, *Brit* pə,lɪtə,saɪ'zeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *politicization* of religion

pol•i•tick•ing /'pɑ:lə,tɪkɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *often disapproving* : political activity that is done especially in order to win support or gain an advantage ▪ She won the nomination after a lot of behind-the-scenes *politicking*.

po•lit•i•co /pə'lɪtɪ,koʊ/ *noun, pl* **-cos** [*count*] *somewhat informal + often disapproving* : POLITICIAN ▪ a *politico* who will do anything to win an election

pol•i•tics /'pɑ:lə,tɪks/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : activities that relate to influencing the actions and policies of a government or getting and keeping power in a government ▪ He is an important figure in American *politics*. ▪ The students discussed the latest news in national/local *politics*. ▪ *Politics* has always interested her. = She's always been interested in *politics*. — often used with a plural verb ▪ *Politics* have always interested her. ▪ He talked about the ways in which global *politics* are changing. ▪ The mayor's *politics* [=the political decisions the mayor made] were often criticized during her time in office. — see also PARTY POLITICS, POWER POLITICS

2 [*noncount*] : the work or job of people (such as elected officials) who are part of a government ▪ *Politics* is a competitive profession. ▪ She plans on ***going into politics***. = She plans on ***entering politics***. [=she plans on getting a job that involves politics]

3 [*plural*] : the opinions that someone has about what should be done by governments : a person's political thoughts and opinions ▪ She has changed her *politics*. ▪ His *politics* are very liberal/conservative. [=he believes that governments should be liberal/conservative]

4 [*noncount*] *often disapproving* : the activities, attitudes, or behaviors that are used to get or keep power or an advantage within a group, organization, etc. ▪ I don't want to get involved in ***office politics***. ▪ She wrote a book about ***sexual politics*** [=the way men and women deal with and behave toward each other] in the academic world.

5 [*noncount*] *chiefly Brit* : POLITICAL SCIENCE ▪ a degree in *politics*

play politics *disapproving* : to say or do things for political reasons instead of doing what is right or what is best for other people ▪ She's been accused of *playing politics* with the investigation. ▪ Legislators need to stop *playing politics* with our future.

pol•i•ty /'pɑ:ləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** *formal*

1 [*count*] : something (such as a country or state) that has a government : a politically organized unit ▪ the *polities* of medieval Italy

2 [*noncount*] : a form of government ▪ the American *polity*

pol•ka /'poʊlkə, *Brit* 'pɒlkə/ *noun, pl* **-kas** [*count*]

1 : a lively dance for couples ▪ We danced a *polka*.

2 : the music for a polka ▪ The band played a *polka*.

pol•ka dot /'poʊkə-/ *noun, pl* ~ **dots** [*count*] : one of a series of dots that make a pattern especially on fabric or clothing — usually plural ▪ The dress has *polka dots* on it. — see color picture on page C12

– polka–dot *or* **pol•ka–dot•ted** /'poʊkə,dɑ:təd/ *adj* ▪ a *polka-dotted* skirt [=a skirt with a pattern of polka dots]

[1]poll /'poʊl/ *noun, pl* **polls**

1 [*count*] : an activity in which several or many people are asked a question or a series of questions in order to get information about what most people think about something ▪ The magazine conducted a *poll* to find out the favorite 100 movies of all time. ▪ A recent *poll* shows a decrease in the number of teenagers who smoke. — see also EXIT POLL, OPINION POLL, STRAW POLL

2 a [*count*] : the record of votes that were made by people in an election — usually plural ▪ The *polls* show that she's ahead with 55 percent of the votes. = She's ahead ***in the polls*** with 55 percent of the votes. **b** [*noncount*] *Brit* : the number of votes made in an election ▪ The candidate won with 55 percent of the *poll*. [=(*US*) *vote*]

3 ***the polls*** : the places where people vote during an election ▪ *The polls* are open until 8:00 tonight. ▪ Voters ***went to the polls*** today. [=people voted today] ▪ He was defeated ***at the polls***. [=he lost the election]

[2]poll *verb* **polls**; **polled**; **poll•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to ask (several or many people) a question or a series of questions in order to get information about what most people think about something ▪ The magazine *polled* its readers on their eating habits. [=the magazine took/conducted a poll of its readers to find out about their eating habits] ▪ About half of the people *polled* had tried smoking.

2 : to receive (a specified number or percentage of votes) in an election ▪ The conservative candidate *polled* more than 10,000 votes in the last election.

pol•len /'pɑ:lən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the very fine usually yellow dust that is produced by a plant and that is carried to other plants of the same kind usually by wind or insects so that the plants can produce seeds

pollen count *noun, pl* ~ **counts** [*count*] : a number that indicates the amount of pollen in the air and that is used by people who get sick from breathing in pollen ▪ The weather forecast said that the *pollen count* will be high tomorrow.

pol•li•nate /'pɑ:lə,neɪt/ *verb* **-nates**; **-nat•ed**; **-nat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to give (a plant) pollen from another plant of the same

kind so that seeds will be produced ▪ The plants/flowers are *pollinated* by bees.
– **pol·li·na·tion** /ˌpɑːləˈneɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *Pollination* is required for plants to produce seeds. – **pol·li·na·tor** /ˈpɑːləˌneɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ Honeybees are a common *pollinator* of flowers.

polling *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the act of asking a person a question as part of a survey or poll ▪ The *polling* was done by telephone.
2 *chiefly Brit* : the act of voting in an election ▪ *Polling* starts at 8 a.m. ▪ (*Brit*) It's ***polling day*** [=(*US*) *election day*] today.

polling booth *noun, pl* ~ **booths** [*count*] *Brit* : VOTING BOOTH

polling place *noun, pl* ~ **places** [*count*] *US* : a building where people go to vote in an election — called also (*Brit*) *polling station*

pol·li·wog *also* **pol·ly·wog** /ˈpɑːliˌwɑːg/ *noun, pl* **-wogs** [*count*] *US* : TADPOLE

poll·ster /ˈpoʊlstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sters** [*count*] : someone who makes questions for a poll, asks questions in a poll, or collects and presents results from a poll

poll tax *noun, pl* ~ **tax·es** [*count*] : a tax that each adult has to pay in order to vote in an election ✧ Poll taxes are no longer legal in the U.S.

pol·lut·ant /pəˈluːtn̩t/ *noun, pl* **-ants** [*count*] : a substance that makes land, water, air, etc., dirty and not safe or suitable to use : something that causes pollution ▪ air/water *pollutants* ▪ environmental/industrial *pollutants* ▪ chemical/toxic *pollutants*

pol·lute /pəˈluːt/ *verb* **-lutes**; **-lut·ed**; **-lut·ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (land, water, air, etc.) dirty and not safe or suitable to use ▪ Waste from the factory had *polluted* [=*contaminated*] the river. ▪ Miles of beaches were *polluted* by the oil spill. ▪ Car exhaust *pollutes* the air. — often used figuratively ▪ Violence on television is *polluting* the minds of children.
– **polluted** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *polluted* beaches/air ▪ The river is *polluted*. – **pol·lut·er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ *Polluters* will be fined. ▪ The company is one of the worst *polluters* in the country.

pol·lu·tion /pəˈluːʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the action or process of making land, water, air, etc., dirty and not safe or suitable to use ▪ industrial practices that have caused *pollution* of the air and water
2 : substances that make land, water, air, etc., dirty and not safe or suitable to use ▪ The tests showed high levels of *pollution* in the water/air. ▪ The fish are dying of/from *pollution*.
— see also LIGHT POLLUTION, NOISE POLLUTION

Pol·ly·an·na /ˌpɑːliˈænə/ *noun, pl* **-nas** [*count*] *disapproving* : someone who thinks good things will always happen and finds something good in everything ▪ I'm no *Pollyanna*, but I do think some good will come out of this.
– **Pol·ly·an·na·ish** /ˌpɑːliˈænəɪʃ/ *also* **Pol·ly·an·nish** /ˌpɑːliˈænɪʃ/ *adj* ▪ *Pollyannaish* illusions/beliefs

pollywog *variant spelling of* POLLIWOG

po·lo /ˈpoʊloʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a game played by two teams of four players who ride horses while using long mallets to hit a wooden ball into a goal — see also WATER POLO

polo neck *noun, pl* ~ **necks** [*count*] *Brit* : TURTLENECK 1

polo shirt *noun, pl* ~ **shirts** [*count*] : a shirt with a collar and a few buttons at the neck that you put on by pulling over your head — see color picture on page C14

pol·ter·geist /ˈpoʊltɚˌgaɪst/ *noun, pl* **-geists** [*count*] : a ghost that makes strange noises and causes objects to move

poly- *combining form* : many ▪ *poly*gamous ▪ *poly*glot

poly·es·ter /ˌpɑːliˈɛstɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a material that is made from a chemical process and that is used for making many different products including fabrics ▪ The shirt is made of *polyester*. ▪ a *polyester* shirt ▪ The sheets are a cotton and *polyester* blend.

poly·eth·yl·ene /ˌpɑːliˈɛθəˌliːn/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : a light and strong plastic that is used mainly in sheets for packaging — called also (*Brit*) *polythene*

po·lyg·a·my /pəˈlɪgəmi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the state or practice of being married to more than one person at the same time ▪ Some cultures practice *polygamy*. — compare MONOGAMY
– **po·lyg·a·mist** /pəˈlɪgəmɪst/ *noun, pl* **-mists** [*count*] ▪ He/She is a *polygamist*. – **po·lyg·a·mous** /pəˈlɪgəməs/ *adj* ▪ a *polygamous* marriage

poly·glot /ˈpɑːliˌglɑːt/ *adj, formal*
1 : knowing or using several languages : MULTILINGUAL ▪ *polyglot* travelers ▪ a *polyglot* population
2 : made up of people or things from different cultures, countries, etc. ▪ a *polyglot* community made up of many cultures
– **polyglot** *noun, pl* **-glots** [*count*] ▪ She was a *polyglot* who was fluent in four languages.

poly·gon /ˈpɑːliˌgɑːn/ *noun, pl* **-gons** [*count*] *mathematics* : a flat shape that has three or more straight lines and angles ▪ Pentagons, hexagons, and octagons are all kinds of *polygons*. — see picture at GEOMETRY

poly·graph /ˈpɑːliˌgræf, *Brit* ˈpɒliˌgrɑːf/ *noun, pl* **-graphs** [*count*]
1 : LIE DETECTOR ▪ They hooked him up to the *polygraph* and began the test.
2 *US* : a test that is done with a lie detector to see if someone is telling the truth ▪ She was asked to take a *polygraph*.

poly·math /ˈpɑːliˌmæθ/ *noun, pl* **-maths** [*count*] *formal* : someone who knows a lot about many different things

poly·mer /ˈpɑːləmɚ/ *noun, pl* **-mers** [*count*] *chemistry* : a chemical compound that is made of small molecules that are arranged in a simple repeating structure to form a larger molecule

poly·mor·phous /ˌpɑːliˈmoɚfəs/ *adj, formal + technical* : having or occurring in many different forms, styles, or stages of development ▪ a *polymorphous* rash ▪ *polymorphous* sexuality

pol·yp /ˈpɑːləp/ *noun, pl* **-yps** [*count*]
1 *medical* : a small lump that grows inside your body (such as inside your colon or on your vocal cords)
2 : a small sea animal (such as a coral) that has a body shaped like a tube

poly·syl·lab·ic /ˌpɑːlisəˈlæbɪk/ *adj, technical* : having more than three syllables ▪ *polysyllabic* words

poly·tech·nic /ˌpɑːliˈtɛknɪk/ *noun, pl* **-nics** [*count*] : a college or university that provides training in technical and practical sciences
– **polytechnic** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *polytechnic* university/institute

poly·the·ism /ˈpɑːliˌθiːˌɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the belief that there is more than one god
– **poly·the·ist** /ˈpɑːliˌθiːɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] – **poly·the·is·tic** /ˌpɑːliθiˈɪstɪk/ *adj* ▪ *polytheistic* religions

poly·thene /ˈpɑːləˌθiːn/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : POLYETHYLENE

poly·un·sat·u·rat·ed /ˌpɑːliˌʌnˈsætʃəˌreɪtəd/ *adj, technical* — used to describe a type of oil or fat that is found especially in nuts and fish and that is better for your health than saturated fats and trans fats ▪ *polyunsaturated* fats/oils — compare MONOUNSATURATED, UNSATURATED

poly·ure·thane /ˌpɑliˈjɚrəˌθeɪn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of plastic that is used to make various products and especially to make a clear liquid that is spread on a surface (such as a wooden floor) and that becomes hard when it dries ▪ The floor will need two coats of *polyurethane*.

polyvinyl chloride *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : PVC

po·made /poʊˈmeɪd, *Brit* pəˈmɑːd/ *noun, pl* **-mades** [*count*] : a thick substance that is used to style hair

pome·gran·ate /ˈpɑːməˌgrænət/ *noun, pl* **-ates** [*count*] : a round, red fruit that has a thick skin and many large seeds

pom·mel /ˈpʌməl/ *noun, pl* **-mels** [*count*] : a high, round part on the front of a saddle

pommel horse *noun, pl* ~ **horses** [*count*] : a large piece of equipment used in gymnastics that is like a very thick bench with two handles on top of it — called also *horse*

pomp /ˈpɑːmp/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the impressive decorations, music, clothing etc., that are part of some formal events ▪ the *pomp* [=*splendor*] of a royal ceremony
pomp and circumstance : impressive formal activities or ceremonies ▪ The prime minister was greeted with *pomp and circumstance*. ▪ the *pomp and circumstance* of a presidential inauguration

pom·pa·dour /ˈpɑːmpəˌdoɚ/ *noun, pl* **-dours** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a hairstyle worn especially by men in which the hair is combed into a high mound at the front of the head — called also (*Brit*) *quiff*

pom–pom /ˈpɑːmˌpɑːm/ *noun, pl* **-poms** [*count*]
1 : a small, soft ball that is used as a decoration especially on clothing ▪ The hat had a *pom-pom* [=(*chiefly Brit*) *bobble*] on top.
2 : a large collection of plastic strings attached to a handle that is waved by cheerleaders

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pomp•ous /ˈpɑ:mpəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *disapproving* : having or showing the attitude of people who speak and behave in a very formal and serious way because they believe that they are better, smarter, or more important than other people ▪ a *pompous* [=*self-important*] politician ▪ a *pompous* remark ▪ She found it difficult to talk about her achievements without sounding *pompous*.
– **pom•pos•i•ty** /ˌpɑ:mˈpɑ:səti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*noncount*] theatrical *pomposity* [*count*] the *pomposities* [=pompous remarks and actions] of elected officials – **pomp•ous•ly** *adv* ▪ a suggestion she had *pompously* dismissed

[1]ponce /ˈpɑ:ns/ *noun, pl* **ponc•es** [*count*] *Brit, informal*
1 : PIMP
2 *offensive* : a homosexual man or a man who dresses and behaves in a way that seems feminine

[2]ponce /ˈpɑ:ns/ *verb* **ponces**; **ponced**; **ponc•ing**
ponce about/around [*phrasal verb*] *Brit, informal* : to spend time doing things that are not useful or serious : to waste time doing silly things ▪ It's time to stop *poncing about* and get busy.

pon•cho /ˈpɑ:nʧoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-chos** [*count*] : a piece of clothing that is used as a coat and that is made of a single piece of cloth or plastic with a hole in the middle for a person's head to go through

pond /ˈpɑ:nd/ *noun, pl* **ponds**
1 [*count*] : an area of water that is surrounded by land and that is smaller than a lake
2 ***the pond*** *informal* : the Atlantic Ocean ▪ They moved here from across *the pond*.
a big fish in a small pond see [1]FISH

pon•der /ˈpɑ:ndɚ/ *verb* **-ders**; **-dered**; **-der•ing** : to think about or consider (something) carefully [+ *obj*] He *pondered* the question before he answered. ▪ The team *pondered* their chances of success. ▪ We *pondered* whether we could afford the trip. [*no obj*] — + *on, over*, or *about* ▪ She paused to *ponder on* the situation. ▪ We *pondered over/about* what to do.

pon•der•ous /ˈpɑ:ndərəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : very boring or dull ▪ students struggling to stay awake during a *ponderous* lecture
2 : slow or awkward because of weight and size ▪ the elephant's *ponderous* movements
– **pon•der•ous•ly** *adv* ▪ a *ponderously* technical lecture ▪ He walked *ponderously* up the stairs. – **pon•der•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]pong /ˈpɑ:ŋ/ *noun, pl* **pongs** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : an unpleasant smell ▪ the *pong* of stale cigarette smoke

[2]pong *verb* **pongs**; **ponged**; **pong•ing** [*no obj*] *Brit, informal* : to have an unpleasant smell ▪ foods that make your breath *pong* a bit

pon•tiff *or* **Pon•tiff** /ˈpɑ:ntəf/ *noun, pl* **-tiffs** [*count*] *formal* : POPE

pon•tif•i•cal /pɑnˈtɪfɪkəl/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : of, relating to, or coming from a pope ▪ *pontifical* authority

[1]pon•tif•i•cate /pɑnˈtɪfəˌkeɪt/ *verb* **-cates**; **-cat•ed**; **-cat•ing** [*no obj*] *disapproving* : to speak or express your opinion about something in a way that shows that you think you are always right ▪ We had to listen to her *pontificate* about/on the best way to raise children.

[2]pon•tif•i•cate /pɑnˈtɪfəkət/ *noun, pl* **-cates** [*count*]
1 : the position of a pope ▪ He was elected to the *pontificate* last year.
2 : the period of time during which a particular person is pope ▪ during the *pontificate* of Pope John Paul II

pon•toon /pɑnˈtu:n/ *noun, pl* **-toons** [*count*] : a large hollow container filled with air that is used to make a structure (such as a boat, airplane, or bridge) float on top of water ▪ The boat had two *pontoons*. ▪ They built a ***pontoon bridge*** [=a bridge that floats on the water and is held up by pontoons] ▪ a ***pontoon plane*** [=an airplane that has pontoons on the bottom so that it can float on water]

[1]po•ny /ˈpoʊni/ *noun, pl* **po•nies** [*count*] : a small horse ▪ He rode a *pony*. — see also ONE-TRICK PONY
dog and pony show see [1]DOG

[2]pony *verb* **po•nies**; **po•nied**; **po•ny•ing**
pony up [*phrasal verb*] *US, informal* **1** : to pay money for something ▪ When the bill came, we all had to *pony up*. [=*pay up*] = We all had to *pony up* for the bill. **2** ***pony up (something)*** : to pay (money) for something ▪ We *ponied up* $160 for the concert tickets.

po•ny•tail /ˈpoʊniˌteɪl/ *noun, pl* **-tails** [*count*] : a way of arranging hair by gathering it together at the back of the head and letting it hang down freely ▪ She usually wears her hair pulled/tied back in a *ponytail*. — see picture at HAIR

Pon•zi scheme /ˈpɑ:nzi-/ *noun, pl* **~ schemes** [*count*] *US* : PYRAMID SCHEME

poo /ˈpu:/ *noun, informal*
1 [*noncount*] : solid waste passed out of the body : FECES ▪ dog *poo* [=*poop*]
2 [*singular*] : the act of passing solid waste from the body — used especially by children in the phrases ***take a poo*** and ***do a poo***
– **poo** *verb* **poos**; **pooed**; **poo•ing** [*no obj*] ▪ The dog *pooed* on the lawn.

-poo /ˌpu:/ *combining form, US, informal + disapproving* — used to suggest that something is small, unimportant, or childish in some way ▪ They all have these cutesy-*poo* nicknames I find so annoying.

poo–bah *variant spelling of* POOH-BAH

pooch /ˈpu:ʧ/ *noun, pl* **pooch•es** [*count*] *informal* : a dog ▪ What a cute little *pooch*!

poo•dle /ˈpu:dl̩/ *noun, pl* **poodles** [*count*] : a type of dog that has thick, curly hair — see picture at DOG

[1]poof /ˈpu:f/ *interj* — used to say that something has happened suddenly or that someone or something has disappeared ▪ One minute she was here, then *poof*, she was gone. ▪ I took a pill and *poof*—my headache vanished.

[2]poof *noun, pl* **poofs** [*count*] *Brit, informal + offensive* : a homosexual man

poof•ter /ˈpu:ftɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] *Brit, informal + offensive* : a homosexual man

pooh /ˈpu:/ *interj, informal*
1 — used to show that you think an idea, suggestion, etc., is not very good ▪ Oh, *pooh*, that's a terrible idea!
2 *Brit* — used to express disgust at an unpleasant smell ▪ *Pooh*! What stinks?

pooh–bah *also* **poo–bah** /ˈpu:ˌbɑ:/ *noun, pl* **-bahs** [*count*] *often disapproving* : a person who has a lot of power or influence ▪ an annual gathering of airline industry *pooh-bahs*

pooh–pooh /ˈpu:ˌpu:/ *verb* **-poohs**; **-poohed**; **-pooh•ing** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to think or say that (something) is not very good or not true ▪ They *pooh-poohed* my idea/suggestion. ▪ He *pooh-poohed* the idea that the house was haunted. ▪ The campers *pooh-poohed* our warnings about the storm.

[1]pool /ˈpu:l/ *noun, pl* **pools** [*count*]
1 : SWIMMING POOL ▪ She dove into the *pool*. ▪ an indoor *pool* ▪ Is it an aboveground *pool* or an inground *pool*?
2 a : a small area of water ▪ tide *pools* on the beach — see also WADING POOL **b** : a small amount of liquid or light that is on a surface — often + *of* ▪ They found a *pool* [=*puddle*] *of* blood on the floor. ▪ They stood in a *pool of* light. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ Her eyes were *pools of* blue.
– compare [3]POOL

[2]pool *verb* **pools**; **pooled**; **pool•ing** [*no obj*] : to form a pool or puddle ▪ Water *pooled* on the floor. — compare [4]POOL

[3]pool *noun, pl* **pools**
1 [*count*] : the money that is bet by people on an event (such as a sports game) ▪ He won the weekly football *pool*. ▪ The *pool* was split among three people.
2 [*noncount*] : a game played on a long table in which players use a long stick and a white ball to hit 15 colored balls into one of six pockets around the table ▪ He enjoys playing/shooting *pool*. ▪ a *pool* table ▪ a *pool* cue — called also *pocket billiards*; compare BILLIARDS, SNOOKER
3 [*count*] : an amount of money that has been collected from many people for some purpose ▪ They each put $20 into the *pool*. ▪ an investment *pool*
4 [*count*] : a supply of things or people that are available for use ▪ The team has a *pool* of talent waiting in the minor leagues. ▪ a *pool* of jurors ▪ We dipped into our *pool* of resources. — see also GENE POOL, MOTOR POOL
5 [*count*] : a group of people who do the same job or activity together ▪ The President answered questions from journalists in the press *pool*. ▪ the secretarial *pool* — see also CAR POOL
– compare [1]POOL

[4]pool *verb* **pools**; **pooled**; **pool•ing** [+ *obj*] : to combine (something) to form a supply which can be used by a group of people ▪ We *pooled* our money together and rented a car. ▪ We can do more when we *pool* our ideas and resources. — compare [2]POOL

pool•room /ˈpu:lˌru:m/ *noun, pl* **-rooms** [*count*] : a room that has a pool table or many pool tables : a room where people play pool

pool•side /ˈpu:lˌsaɪd/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the area next to or near the side of a swimming pool • We had lunch at the *poolside*. — often used before another noun • a *poolside* barbecue/bar
– **poolside** *adv* • Sunbathers were relaxing *poolside*. • We had lunch *poolside*.

[1]poop /ˈpu:p/ *verb* **poops**; **pooped**; **poop•ing** [*no obj*] *US, informal* : to pass solid waste from the body : DEFECATE • The dog *pooped* on the lawn. — compare [3]POOP

[2]poop *noun, US, informal*
1 [*noncount*] : solid waste passed out of the body : FECES • dog *poop*
2 [*singular*] : the act of passing solid waste from the body • The dog did a *poop* on the lawn.

[3]poop *verb* **poops**; **pooped**; **pooping**
poop out [*phrasal verb*] *US, informal* **1** : to stop working properly • The old radio finally *pooped out*. **2 a** : to become very tired • We worked all morning but we *pooped out* in the afternoon. **b** ***poop (someone) out*** : to make (someone) very tired • That hike really *pooped* me *out*. • I'm all *pooped out*.
– compare [1]POOP

poop deck *noun, pl* ~ **decks** [*count*] : the flat surface on the raised structure at the rear of a ship

pooped *adj, not used before a noun, US, informal* : very tired • We were *pooped* after a long day of work.

poop•er–scoop•er /ˈpu:pəˌsku:pə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *informal* : a device that is used for picking up dog feces so that it can be thrown away

poor /ˈpuə/ *adj* **poor•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having little money or few possessions : not having enough money for the basic things that people need to live properly • We were too *poor* to buy new clothes. • The organization helps *poor* families/people. • a *poor* country/neighborhood — opposite RICH
2 : having a very small amount of something • a *poor* crop • She has a *poor* vocabulary. — often + *in* • Junk food is *poor in* vitamins and nutrients. — opposite RICH
3 : not good in quality or condition : BAD • a *poor* effort • It was a *poor* attempt at a joke. • a *poor* performance • He is in *poor* condition/health. • She couldn't read the sign because her vision was too *poor*. • The joke was in *poor* taste. [=the joke was offensive or not polite] • He has a *poor* opinion of her. [=he does not think she is good; he does not like her]
4 : not skilled at something : not able to do something well • He was such a *poor* plumber that he couldn't fix a simple leak. • a *poor* golfer • She is a *poor* judge of character. • I am *poor* [=(more commonly) *bad*] at math.
5 *always used before a noun* — used to refer to someone or something in a way that shows sympathy • The *poor* kitten hurt its paw. • Leave the *poor* guy alone. • You're all by yourself, you *poor* thing. • *Poor* John has been sick for days.
a poor second/third (etc.) — used to say that someone finished a race or contest a long way behind the winner • He came in *a poor second* in the race. [=he finished second but was far behind the winner] • She was *a poor second* in the tournament.
make a poor fist of see FIST
poor man's **1** — used to refer to someone (such as a performer) who is like another person in some ways but not as talented or successful • a young actor who is said to be the *poor man's* James Dean **2** — used to refer to something that is like something else but not as expensive • Pewter is the *poor man's* silver.
the poor : poor people • He gave money to *the poor*.

poor•house /ˈpuəˌhaʊs/ *noun, pl* **-hous•es** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a place for poor people to live that is paid for by the taxes, donations, etc., of other people

[1]poor•ly /ˈpuəli/ *adv* : in a poor or bad manner : in a way that is not good or satisfactory • The essay was so *poorly* [=*badly*] written that it made no sense. • a *poorly* run business

[2]poorly *adj, Brit, informal* : somewhat ill • feeling *poorly*

[1]pop /ˈpɑ:p/ *verb* **pops**; **popped**; **pop•ping**
1 a : to suddenly break open or come away from something often with a short, loud noise [*no obj*] The balloon *popped*. [=*burst*] • We heard the sound of corks *popping* as the celebration began. • One of the buttons *popped* off my sweater. [+ *obj*] Don't *pop* that balloon! • She *popped* the cork on the champagne. [=she opened the bottle of champagne by removing the cork] **b** [*no obj*] : to make a short, loud noise • Guns were *popping* in the distance.
2 : to cook (popcorn) [+ *obj*] We *popped* some popcorn in the microwave. [*no obj*] The popcorn is done *popping*.
3 [*no obj*] *informal* **a** : to come from, into, or out of a place suddenly or briefly • I didn't mean to say that—it just *popped* out. • Her shoulder *popped* out of its socket. • He opened the box, and out *popped* a mouse. • A funny thought just *popped* into my head. [=I just thought of something funny] • The cathedral suddenly *popped* into view. [=I could suddenly see the cathedral] • Her father *pops* in and out of her life. [=her father is sometimes involved in her life and sometimes not] **b** *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to go to or from a place quickly, suddenly, or briefly • If you are busy, I can *pop* back in later. • She *popped* over for a cup of tea. = (*Brit*) She *popped* round for a cup of tea. • My neighbor *popped* in for a visit. • I need to *pop* into the drugstore for some film. • She *popped* out for a minute. She should be back soon. • I'll *pop* down to the post office during my break.
4 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [+ *obj*] *informal* : to put (something) in, into, or onto a place suddenly or briefly • She *popped* a CD in the player. • He *popped* a quarter in the jukebox. • I *popped* a grape into my mouth. • He *popped* [=*stuck*] his head out the window.
5 ✧ When your ***ears pop***, you feel a sudden change of pressure in your ears as you are going up or down in an airplane, on a steep road, etc.
6 ✧ If your ***eyes pop***, they open very wide because you are surprised, afraid, excited, etc. • When I saw the new car, my *eyes* practically *popped* out of my head.
7 [+ *obj*] *US, informal* : to hit (someone) • I felt like *popping* him (one).
8 [*no obj*] *baseball* : to hit a pop fly • He *popped* [=*popped up*] to the second baseman in the first inning. • The batter ***popped out***. [=hit a pop fly that was caught for an out]
9 [+ *obj*] *US, informal* : to open and drink (a bottle or can of beer) • They stopped at a bar to *pop* a few beers after work.
pop off [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** : to die especially in a sudden or unexpected way • The old man *popped off* before he could rewrite his will. **2** *US* : to talk loudly or angrily to someone • The hockey player was ejected from the game for *popping off* to the referee.
pop on [*phrasal verb*] *Brit, informal* ***pop on (something)*** *or* ***pop (something) on*** : to put on (clothing) quickly • *pop on* a hat
pop open **1** : to open suddenly and quickly • The suitcase/lid *popped open*. **2** : to open (something) suddenly and quickly • She *popped* the umbrella *open*. • He *popped open* a cold beer.
pop pills *informal* : to take a lot of pills regularly • I've been *popping pills* all week for this cold. • He spends his time getting drunk and *popping pills*.
pop the question *informal* : to ask someone to marry you • He *popped the question* on Christmas Day.
pop up [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** : to appear in usually a sudden or unexpected way • Coffee shops seem to be *popping up* everywhere. • New evidence has been *popping up* every day in the trial. • Problems kept *popping up*. **2** *baseball* : to hit a high fly ball that does not go very far : to hit a pop fly • The batter *popped up* [=*popped*] to the second baseman. — see also POP-UP

[2]pop *noun, pl* **pops**
1 [*count*] : a short, loud sound • We heard a loud *pop* when the lights went out.
2 *informal* : SODA POP [*noncount*] a bottle of *pop* [=*soda*] [*count*] Two *pops*, please.
3 [*count*] *baseball* : POP FLY
a pop *US, informal* : for each one : APIECE • The tickets are selling at $50 *a pop*.
take a pop at *informal* **1** : to try to hit (someone) • Some drunk *took a pop at* me. **2** *chiefly Brit* : to criticize (someone) publicly • He *took a pop at* his rival.
– compare [4]POP, [5]POP

[3]pop *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : of or relating to things that are popular and often talked about on television, in newspapers, etc. • *pop* culture/psychology/fiction
2 : of or relating to popular music • *pop* rock • a *pop* artist/singer/star [=a person who sings popular music]

[4]pop *noun, pl* **pops**
1 [*noncount*] : music that is popular • The radio station plays *pop*.
2 ***Pops*** [*noncount*] *US* : an orchestra that plays popular music — used in names • the Boston/Cincinnati *Pops*
– compare [2]POP, [5]POP

P

[5]pop *noun, pl* **pops** *US, informal + old-fashioned*
1 [*count*] : a person's father — usually singular ▪ Hey *Pop*, can I borrow one of your ties? ▪ My *pop* likes watching football.
2 *pops* *often humorous* — used as a form of address for an old man ▪ Need help with that package, *pops*? — see also MOM-AND-POP
– compare [2]POP, [4]POP

pop. *abbr* population

pop art *or* **Pop Art** *noun* [*noncount*] : art in which common objects (such as road signs, hamburgers, comic strips, or soup cans) are used or shown
– **pop artist** *or* **Pop artist** *noun, pl* ~ **-ists** [*count*]

pop•corn /ˈpɑːpˌkoɚn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : corn in the form of hard yellow seeds that burst open and become soft and white when they are heated ▪ We watched a movie and ate (a bag of) *popcorn*.



popcorn

pope *or* **Pope** /ˈpoʊp/ *noun, pl* **popes** *or* **Popes** [*count*] : the head of the Roman Catholic Church ▪ The cardinals elected a new *pope*. ▪ *Pope* Benedict XVI

pop–eyed /ˈpɑːpˌaɪd/ *adj*
1 : having eyes that stick out ▪ *pop-eyed* bullfrogs
2 : having eyes that are open very wide because of surprise, fear, excitement, etc. ▪ He stared *pop-eyed* as the huge wave came straight towards the boat.

pop fly *noun, pl* ~ **flies** [*count*] *baseball* : a very high fly ball that does not go very far ▪ He hit a high *pop fly* to the second baseman. — called also *pop, pop-up*

pop•gun /ˈpɑːpˌgʌn/ *noun, pl* **-guns** [*count*] : a toy gun that shoots corks and makes a loud noise

pop•lar /ˈpɑːplɚ/ *noun, pl* **-lars** [*count*] : a tall, thin tree that has rough bark, soft wood, and very small groups of flowers

pop•lin /ˈpɑːplən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a strong cotton cloth

pop•over /ˈpɑːpˌoʊvɚ/ *noun, pl* **-overs** [*count*] *US* : a type of bread roll that is very light and that is made from eggs, milk, and flour

poppa *variant spelling of* PAPA

pop•per /ˈpɑːpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-pers** [*count*]
1 : a pan or electric machine for making popcorn ▪ a popcorn *popper*
2 *Brit* : [2]SNAP 3

pop•pet /ˈpɑːpət/ *noun, pl* **-pets** [*count*] *Brit, informal* — used to talk in a loving way to or about a child ▪ It's time for bed, *poppet*.

pop•py /ˈpɑːpi/ *noun, pl* **-pies** [*count*] : a type of plant that has bright red or orange flowers and that is the source of opium; *also* : its flower

pop•py•cock /ˈpɑːpiˌkɑːk/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal + old-fashioned* : foolish words or ideas : NONSENSE ▪ That's a lot of *poppycock*!

poppy seed *noun, pl* ~ **seeds** [*count*] : the small, black seed of a poppy that is used in baked goods (such as breads and cakes) ▪ Sprinkle *poppy seeds* on the bread before baking. ▪ a *poppy seed* cake

pop quiz *noun, pl* ~ **quiz•zes** [*count*] *US* : a short test that a teacher gives to students without warning

Pop•si•cle /ˈpɑːpsɪkəl/ *trademark* — used for flavored and colored water frozen on a stick

pop–top /ˈpɑːpˌtɑːp/ *noun, pl* **-tops** [*count*] *US* : the part of a can's top that can be removed by pulling a ring

pop•u•lace /ˈpɑːpjələs/ *noun* [*singular*] *formal* : the people who live in a country or area ▪ The *populace* has suffered greatly. ▪ a diverse/educated *populace* ▪ the general *populace* [=the ordinary or common people]

pop•u•lar /ˈpɑːpjəlɚ/ *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] **a** : liked or enjoyed by many people ▪ They have names that were *popular* a century ago. ▪ He is a *popular* guy in school. ▪ a *popular* actor ▪ Spicy foods have become increasingly *popular*. ▪ This is our most *popular* [=*best-selling*] brand of sneaker. — often + *with* or *among* ▪ The bar is *popular with* college students. ▪ This TV show is especially *popular among* women. — opposite UNPOPULAR **b** : accepted, followed, used, or done by many people ▪ That is a very *popular* misconception. ▪ The word "groovy" was *popular* in the 1960s but it's outdated now. ▪ Her theories are *popular* among social scientists. ▪ ***Contrary to popular belief/opinion*** [=in spite of what many people believe], fame does have its drawbacks. — opposite UNPOPULAR
2 *always used before a noun* : of, relating to, or coming from most of the people in a country, society, or group ▪ *popular* government ▪ *popular* culture ▪ the *popular* vote — see also *popular demand* at [1]DEMAND
3 *always used before a noun, somewhat formal* : designed or intended for the average person : capable of being understood by ordinary people ▪ *popular* mechanics ▪ a *popular* history of physics

pop•u•lar•i•ty /ˌpɑːpjəˈlerəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : state of being liked, enjoyed, accepted, or done by a large number of people : the quality or state of being popular ▪ Acupuncture has grown/gained (in) *popularity* [=has become more popular] in the West. ▪ the increasing *popularity* of cell phones ▪ The candidate is winning/losing *popularity* with/among voters. [=is becoming more/less popular with/among voters]

popularity contest *noun, pl* ~ **-tests** [*count*] : a contest or situation in which the person who wins or is most successful is the one who is most popular rather than the one who is most skillful, qualified, etc. ▪ The election was just a *popularity contest*. Voters didn't really care about the issues. — often used to say that someone or something is not popular ▪ After laying off hundreds of workers, the company isn't going to win any *popularity contests* around here. [=the company is not well liked after laying off hundreds of workers]

pop•u•lar•ize *also Brit* **pop•u•lar•ise** /ˈpɑːpjələˌraɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es; -ized; -iz•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to cause (something) to be liked, enjoyed, accepted, or done by many people : to make (something) popular ▪ a phrase that was *popularized* by its use in a hit TV show ▪ Dream analysis was *popularized* by Sigmund Freud.
2 : to make (something that is difficult or complicated) simpler and easier to understand for the average person ▪ The book presents a *popularized* version of American history.
– **pop•u•lar•i•za•tion** *also Brit* **pop•u•lar•i•sa•tion** /ˌpɑːpjələrəˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌpɒpjələˌraɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *popularization* of yoga

pop•u•lar•ly /ˈpɑːpjələli/ *adv*
1 : by many people or most people ▪ a *popularly* held belief ▪ The polygraph machine is more *popularly* [=*commonly*] known as a "lie detector."
2 : by being chosen or voted for by most of the people ▪ He was the country's first ***popularly elected*** leader. [=the country's first leader who was chosen in an election rather than in some other way]

pop•u•late /ˈpɑːpjəˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates; -lat•ed; -lat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to live in (a country, city, area, etc.) : to make up the population of (a place) ▪ Immigrants began to *populate* the area in the late 19th century. ▪ Strange creatures *populate* the ocean depths. — often used as *(be) populated* ▪ The country *is populated* by many ethnic groups. — often used figuratively ▪ The area *is populated* by small farms. [=the area has many small farms] ▪ His stories *are populated* with real-life characters.
– **populated** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a densely/heavily *populated* area [=an area where many people live] ▪ a sparsely/thinly *populated* area [=an area where few people live] ▪ The most *populated* region of the country [=the region where most people live] is in the south.

pop•u•la•tion /ˌpɑːpjəˈleɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 : the number of people who live in a place [*count*] The world's *population* has increased greatly. — often + *of* ▪ The *population of* New York City is over eight million. [*noncount*] The city has experienced an increase in *population*. — often used before another noun ▪ *population* growth/control ▪ a ***population explosion/boom*** [=a sudden large increase in the number of people or animals in an area]
2 [*count*] : a group of people or animals of a particular kind that live in a place ▪ There has been a sharp reduction in the bat *population* in this region. ▪ the rural *population* of America ▪ the educated/Jewish/adult *population*

pop•u•list /ˈpɑːpjəlɪst/ *adj* : of or relating to a political party that claims to represent ordinary people ▪ *populist* leaders
– **pop•u•lism** /ˈpɑːpjəˌlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ His *populism* appeals to a broad range of voters. – **populist** *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ She is a *populist*.

pop•u•lous /ˈpɑːpjələs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : having a large population ▪ a *populous* seaport ▪ the most *populous* state in the U.S.

[1]pop–up /ˈpɑːpˌʌp/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : having a picture that stands up when a page is opened ▪ a *pop-up* book ▪ a *pop-up* card

2 *computers* : appearing on the screen over another window or document ▪ a *pop-up* menu ▪ *pop-up* ads

²pop–up *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*]
1 *baseball* : POP FLY ▪ He hit a high *pop-up* that was caught by the shortstop. — see also *pop up* at ¹POP
2 *computers* : a window that appears on the screen over other windows or documents and that often advertises something ▪ The Web site is full of *pop-ups*.

por•ce•lain /ˈpoɚsələn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a hard, white substance that is very delicate and that is made by baking clay ▪ The bowl is made of/from *porcelain*. ▪ a *porcelain* bowl/doll

porch /ˈpoɚʧ/ *noun, pl* **porch•es** [*count*]
1 *US* : a structure attached to the entrance of a building that has a roof and that may or may not have walls ▪ The house has a large front/back *porch*. ▪ an enclosed *porch* [=a porch that has walls] — see picture at HOUSE
2 *Brit* : an entrance to a building that has a separate roof

por•cine /ˈpoɚˌsaɪn/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : of, relating to, or like a pig ▪ *porcine* pets ▪ his *porcine* face

por•cu•pine /ˈpoɚkjəˌpaɪn/ *noun, pl* **por•cu•pines** *also* **porcupine** [*count*] : a small animal that has very stiff, sharp parts (called quills) all over its body — see picture at RODENT

¹pore /ˈpoɚ/ *verb* **pores; pored; por•ing**
pore over [*phrasal verb*] ***pore over (something)*** : to read or study (something) very carefully ▪ He *pored over* the map for hours.

²pore *noun, pl* **pores** [*count*]
1 : a very small opening on the surface of your skin that liquid comes out through when you sweat
2 : a small opening on the surface of a plant, a rock, etc.

pork /ˈpoɚk/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the meat of a pig that is used for food ▪ roast *pork* ▪ *pork* chops
2 *US, informal + disapproving* : government money that is spent on projects done to help the political careers of elected officials ▪ We need to cut the *pork* out of the federal budget.

pork barrel *noun* [*noncount*] *US, informal + disapproving* : government projects that benefit people in a particular part of the country and that are done in order to help the political careers of elected officials — often used before another noun ▪ *pork barrel* projects/spending

pork•er /ˈpoɚkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *informal*
1 : a very fat pig used for food
2 : a fat person

pork rind *noun, pl* **~ rinds** [*count, noncount*] *US* : a small piece of pig skin that is fried and eaten cold as a snack

¹porky /ˈpoɚki/ *adj* **pork•i•er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*] *informal* : ¹FAT ▪ He's looking a little *porky* these days.

²porky *noun, pl* **pork•ies** [*count*] *Brit slang* : ⁴LIE ▪ He told a *porky*.

porn /ˈpoɚn/ *also* **por•no** /ˈpoɚnoʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : PORNOGRAPHY ▪ making/selling *porn* — often used before another noun ▪ a *porn* movie ▪ the *porn* industry

por•no•graph•ic /ˌpoɚnəˈgræfɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *often disapproving* : showing or describing naked people or sex in a very open and direct way in order to cause sexual excitement ▪ *pornographic* magazines/movies ▪ *pornographic* Web sites

por•nog•ra•phy /poɚˈnɑːgrəfi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *often disapproving* : movies, pictures, magazines, etc., that show or describe naked people or sex in a very open and direct way in order to cause sexual excitement ▪ If you ask me, his movies are just high-class *pornography*.
– **por•nog•ra•pher** /poɚˈnɑːgrəfɚ/ *noun, pl* **-phers** [*count*]

po•rous /ˈporəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : having small holes that allow air or liquid to pass through ▪ *porous* rock ▪ a *porous* membrane/surface
2 : easy to pass or get through ▪ The country has a *porous* border.
– **po•ros•i•ty** /pəˈrɑːsəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* ▪ the *porosity* of the membrane

por•poise /ˈpoɚpəs/ *noun, pl* **-pois•es** [*count*] : a small usually gray and white whale that has a rounded nose — see picture at DOLPHIN

por•ridge /ˈpoɹɪʤ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : OATMEAL 2

¹port /ˈpoɚt/ *noun, pl* **ports**
1 : a town or city where ships stop to load and unload cargo [*count*] Boston is a major U.S. *port*. [*noncount*] The ship is now in *port* but will be leaving *port* soon.
2 : a place where ships can find shelter from a storm [*count*] The ship reached the *port* safely. [*noncount*] The ship spent two days in *port*.
any port in a storm — used to say that you will use anyone or anything for comfort, help, etc., when you are in a bad situation ▪ "I know she's lonely, but I can't believe she's going out with that guy." "Well, you know what they say: *any port in a storm*."
– compare ²PORT, ³PORT, ⁴PORT

²port *noun* [*noncount*] : the side of a ship or aircraft that is on the left when you are looking toward the front ▪ The ship turned to *port*. — compare STARBOARD — compare ¹PORT, ³PORT, ⁴PORT
– **port** *adj* ▪ the *port* side ▪ the *port* engine

³port *noun, pl* **ports** [*count, noncount*] : a strong, sweet, usually dark red wine that is made in Portugal — compare ¹PORT, ²PORT, ⁴PORT

⁴port *noun, pl* **ports** [*count*] : a place where you can connect a piece of equipment (such as a printer or mouse) to a computer — compare ¹PORT, ²PORT, ³PORT

Port. *abbr* Portugal

portabella *variant spelling of* PORTOBELLO

por•ta•ble /ˈpoɚtəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : easy to carry or move around ▪ a *portable* television/radio ▪ *Portable* devices such as MP3 players are becoming increasingly popular.
– **portable** *noun, pl* **-tables** [*count*] ▪ laptop computers and other *portables* – **por•ta•bil•i•ty** /ˌpoɚtəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *Portability* is the main advantage of laptops.

por•tal /ˈpoɚtl̩/ *noun, pl* **-tals** [*count*]
1 *formal + literary* : a large door or gate to a building (such as a church)
2 *computers* : a Web site that helps you find other sites ▪ a Web *portal* for baseball fans

port•cul•lis /poɚtˈkʌləs/ *noun, pl* **-lis•es** [*count*] *formal + literary* : a heavy iron gate that can be raised or lowered at the entrance to a castle

por•tend /poɚˈtɛnd/ *verb* **-tends; -tend•ed; -tend•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal + literary* : to be a sign or warning that something usually bad or unpleasant is going to happen ▪ The distant thunder *portended* a storm. ▪ If you're superstitious, a black cat *portends* trouble.

por•tent /ˈpoɚˌtɛnt/ *noun, pl* **-tents** [*count*] *formal + literary* : a sign or warning that something usually bad or unpleasant is going to happen ▪ a *portent* of evil

por•ten•tous /poɚˈtɛntəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 *formal + literary* : giving a sign or warning that something usually bad or unpleasant is going to happen ▪ a *portentous* dream/event
2 *formal + disapproving* : trying to seem important, serious, or impressive : POMPOUS ▪ a *portentous* manner/tone
– **por•ten•tous•ly** *adv*

por•ter /ˈpoɚtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters**
1 [*count*] : a person whose job is to carry bags or luggage at a hotel, airport, etc. ▪ The *porter* helped her with her luggage.
2 [*count*] *US* : a person whose job is to help passengers on a train
3 [*count*] *Brit* : a person whose job is to let people into a hotel, college, hospital, etc. ▪ the night *porter*
4 [*count*] *Brit* : a person whose job is to move patients from one part of a hospital to another
5 [*count, noncount*] : a heavy, dark brown beer ▪ a glass of *porter*

port•fo•lio /poɚtˈfoʊliˌoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-lios** [*count*]
1 : a flat case for carrying documents or drawings
2 : a set of drawings, paintings, or photographs that are presented together in a folder ✧ Artists present *portfolios* of their work to possible employers or to people who might buy or show their art.
3 *finance* : the investments that are owned by a person or organization ▪ an investment/retirement *portfolio* ▪ a *portfolio* manager
4 *Brit* : the responsibilities of a minister of state or member of a cabinet ▪ That's not part of his *portfolio*.

port•hole /ˈpoɚtˌhoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-holes** [*count*] : a small round window in the side of a ship or aircraft

por•ti•co /ˈpoɚtɪˌkoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-coes** *or* **-cos** [*count*] *formal* : a row of columns supporting a roof at the entrance of a building

¹por•tion /ˈpoɚʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*]
1 : a part of a larger amount, area, etc. ▪ A *portion* of the donations will be given to the orphanage. ▪ *Portions* of land

were used for farming. ▪ A considerable/significant *portion* of the city was flooded.

2 : a part of something that is shared with other people — usually singular ▪ A *portion* of the blame belongs to you. ▪ He took on a large *portion* of the work.

3 : the amount of food that is served to a person at one time ▪ The restaurant gives large/generous *portions*. ▪ I'll just have a small *portion* [=*serving*] of meat. ▪ She divided the pie into six equal *portions*.

²portion *verb* **-tions**; **-tioned**; **-tion•ing** [+ *obj*] : to divide (something) into parts and give those parts to people ▪ The work was *portioned* to each member of the staff. — usually + *out* ▪ They *portioned* the supplies *out* equally. ▪ The supplies were *portioned out* among the troops.

port•ly /'poɚtli/ *adj* **port•li•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *somewhat formal* : having a round and somewhat fat body ▪ a *portly* gentleman

port•man•teau /poɚt'mæntoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-teaus** *or* **-teaux** /poɚt'mæntoʊz/ [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a large suitcase that opens into two parts

por•to•bel•lo /ˌpoɚtə'bɛloʊ/ *also* **por•ta•bel•la** /ˌpoɚtə'bɛlə/ *noun, pl* **-los** *also* **-las** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a large brown mushroom used in cooking

port of call *noun, pl* **ports of call** [*count*] : a place where a ship stops during a journey ▪ The island is a busy *port of call*. ▪ Our next *port of call* is Jamaica.

port of entry *noun, pl* **ports of entry** [*count*] : a place (such as a city or airport) where people or goods enter a country

por•trait /'poɚtrət/ *noun, pl* **-traits**

1 [*count*] : a painting, drawing, or photograph of a person that usually only includes the person's head and shoulders ▪ black-and-white *portraits* ▪ a family *portrait* ▪ The queen posed for her *portrait*. — see also SELF-PORTRAIT

2 [*count*] : a detailed description of something or someone ▪ The book/film presents a *portrait* of life in a small town.

3 [*noncount*] : a way of printing a page so that the shorter sides are on the top and bottom and the longer sides are on the left and right — compare LANDSCAPE

por•trait•ist /'poɚtrətɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who paints or draws portraits

por•trai•ture /'poɚtrəʧɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the art of making portraits ▪ a painter who is master at *portraiture*

2 : portraits of people painted or drawn by artists ▪ The museum is exhibiting *portraiture* from the late 19th century.

por•tray /poɚ'treɪ/ *verb* **-trays**; **-trayed**; **-tray•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to describe (someone or something) in a particular way ▪ The White House has *portrayed* the President as deeply conflicted over the matter. ▪ The lawyer *portrayed* his client as a victim of child abuse. ▪ He *portrayed* himself as a victim.

2 : to show (someone or something) in a painting, book, etc. ▪ The painting *portrays* the queen in a purple robe. ▪ The novel *portrays* [=*depicts*] life in a small southern town.

3 : to play (a character) in a film, play, or television show ▪ Laurence Olivier *portrayed* Hamlet beautifully.

por•tray•al /poɚ'trejəl/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*]

1 : the act of showing or describing someone or something especially in a painting, book, etc. — often + *of* ▪ We will examine Edgar Allan Poe's *portrayal of* women in his stories. ▪ The book is an accurate *portrayal of* his life. ▪ I don't accept his *portrayal of* himself as an innocent victim. [=I don't believe that he is an innocent victim, as he claims to be]

2 : the way in which an actor plays a character — often + *of* ▪ Laurence Olivier's *portrayal of* Hamlet was brilliant.

¹Por•tu•guese /ˌpoɚʧə'gi:z/ *adj* : of or relating to Portugal, its people, or their language ▪ *Portuguese* customs/food

²Portuguese *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : the language spoken in Portugal and Brazil ▪ She is teaching her son *Portuguese*.

2 ***the Portuguese*** : the people of Portugal : Portuguese people ▪ the customs of *the Portuguese*

Portuguese man–of–war *noun, pl* ~ **man–of–wars** *or* ~ **men–of–war** [*count*] : a large sea animal that has a very soft body, many long, soft parts (called tentacles) that hang down from its body, and a poisonous sting

pos. *abbr* **1** position **2** positive

¹pose /'poʊz/ *verb* **pos•es**; **posed**; **pos•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to be or create (a possible threat, danger, problem, etc.) ▪ Smog *poses* a threat to our health. [=smog threatens our health] ▪ His careless behavior *poses* a hazard to others. [=his careless behavior is dangerous to others] ▪ Physical sports *pose* a risk of injury. ▪ The weather should not *pose* a problem for us. ▪ Decreasing the unemployment rate *poses* a serious challenge to/for the new governor.

2 [+ *obj*] : to ask or suggest (a question) ▪ My mother *posed* a question to me that I still can't answer to this day: "What do you want to do with your life?" ▪ The contradictions in his argument *pose* [=*raise*] questions about his credibility.

3 : to stand, sit, or lie down in a particular position as a model for a photograph, painting, etc. [*no obj*] — usually + *for* ▪ Everyone *posed for* the group photo. ▪ She *posed* nude *for* the magazine. [+ *obj*] The photographer *posed* her on the steps of the courthouse.

pose as [*phrasal verb*] ***pose as (someone or something)*** : to pretend to be (someone or something) in order to deceive people ▪ She *posed as* a student to get free admission to the museum. ▪ undercover cops *posing as* drug dealers

²pose *noun, pl* **poses** [*count*]

1 : the position in which someone stands, sits, lies down, etc., especially as a model for a photograph, painting, etc. ▪ The photographs show the models in both clothed and nude *poses*. ▪ Hold that *pose*. It will make a great photograph.

2 *disapproving* : a kind of behavior that is intended to impress other people and that is not sincere ▪ His disapproval of the war looks good to voters, but I bet it's just a *pose*.

¹pos•er /'poʊzɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *disapproving* : a person who dresses or behaves in a deceptive way that is meant to impress other people ▪ He's not really interested in rap music. He's just a *poser*. — called also *poseur* — compare ²POSER

²poser *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *informal* : a difficult question or problem ▪ Here's a *poser* for you—what is good art? — compare ¹POSER

po•seur /poʊ'zɚ/ *noun, pl* **-seurs** [*count*] *disapproving* : ¹POSER

posh /'pɑ:ʃ/ *adj* **posh•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *informal*

1 : very attractive, expensive, and popular ▪ They live in a *posh* neighborhood. ▪ I stayed at a *posh* [=*elegant, luxurious*] hotel.

2 *Brit* : typical of people who have high social status ▪ a *posh* accent ▪ The family is very *posh*.

– **posh** *adv, Brit* ▪ They laugh when I try to ***talk posh***.

pos•it /'pɑ:zət/ *verb* **-its**; **-it•ed**; **-it•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to suggest (something, such as an idea or theory) especially in order to start a discussion ▪ Some astronomers have *posited* [=*proposed, postulated*] that the universe is made up of mysterious dark matter.

¹po•si•tion /pə'zɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 a [*count*] : the place where someone or something is in relation to other people or things ▪ From this *position*, you can see all of New York City's skyline. ▪ The chart shows the *positions* [=*locations*] of the constellations in the night sky. **b** [*noncount*] : the place where someone or something should be — used after *in, into*, or *out of* ▪ The actors were all *in position*. ▪ The nail fell *out of position* before I could hammer it. ▪ He maneuvered the car *into position*. ▪ The defensive players fell back *into position*. ▪ Police were *in position* to catch the fleeing suspect. ▪ The switch is *in* the on *position*, but nothing is happening.

2 a : the way someone stands, sits, or lies down [*count*] Actors, please assume/take your *positions*. The show is about to begin. ▪ The child fell asleep in a sitting *position*. ▪ I was in an uncomfortable *position* and had to move. [*noncount*] I was uncomfortable, so I shifted *position*. — see also FETAL POSITION **b** [*count*] : the way something is arranged or placed ▪ Return your seat to an upright *position* for landing.

3 [*count*] : the situation that someone or something is in — usually singular ▪ I've been in your *position* before, so I think I can help you. ▪ The company's financial *position* has worsened over the past year. ▪ The manager was placed in the awkward/difficult *position* of having to lay off dozens of workers. ▪ Put yourself in my *position* for a moment. What would you do? ▪ He is in a *position* of power/authority. ▪ I'm ***in no position to*** lend you any money. [=I cannot lend you any money]

4 [*count*] : an opinion or judgment on a particular subject ▪ The Supreme Court has taken the *position* that the First Amendment does not apply in these kinds of cases. ▪ Allow me to explain my *position*. — often + *on* ▪ I was forced to rethink my *positions on* certain issues. ▪ He criticized his opponent for not taking a *position on* gun control.

5 : the rank or role of someone or something in an organiza-

tion or society [*count*] He rose to a *position* of leadership and authority. ▪ They dedicated their lives to improving the *position* of women in a male-dominated society. [*noncount*] Wealth and *position* are not important to her.

6 [*count*] : JOB ▪ Does your company have any entry-level *positions* available? ▪ The *position* has been filled. [=someone has been hired for the job] ▪ Requirements for the *position* include a master's degree and at least five years of work experience. ▪ She was named to the *position* of senior vice president of marketing.

7 : the place of someone or something in a race, contest, competition, etc. [*count*] She finished the race in fourth *position*. [*noncount*] The cars ***jockeyed for position*** in the first lap of the race. [=each car tried to get into a better position in the first lap of the race] ▪ The candidates *jockeyed for position* in the debates. [=they tried to do better than others in the debates] — see also POLE POSITION

8 [*count*] *sports* : the particular place and job of a player on a sports team ▪ I think goalie is the hardest *position* to play in hockey.

9 [*count*] : a place where an army has put soldiers, guns, etc. — usually plural ▪ Artillery bombarded our *positions*.

²position *verb* **-tions**; **-tioned**; **-tion·ing** [+ *obj*] : to put (something or someone) in a particular position ▪ He *positioned* the chairs around the table. ▪ The company is *positioning* itself to take advantage of a new market. ▪ The shortstop was *positioned* well to make the play. ▪ She *positioned* herself by the door.

po·si·tion·al /pə'zɪʃənəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : relating to the position of someone or something ▪ *positional* changes ▪ a *positional* advantage

position paper *noun, pl* ~ **-pers** [*count*] : a written report from an organization or government that discusses a particular issue and suggests what should be done

¹pos·i·tive /'pɑ:zətɪv/ *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : good or useful ▪ Did you have a *positive* [=*pleasant*] experience working with that company? ▪ The book had a *positive* influence on me. ▪ He has been a *positive* role model for his brother. ▪ Nothing *positive* came out of that experience. ▪ What are some of the *positive* things about your job? ▪ The low unemployment rate is a *positive* sign for the economy. ▪ The company took *positive* steps to create a safer workplace. — opposite NEGATIVE

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : thinking about the good qualities of someone or something : thinking that a good result will happen : hopeful or optimistic ▪ You've got to have a *positive* attitude/outlook to do well in life. ▪ You should try to be more *positive* about the whole situation. ▪ ***On the positive side***, you will be making more money. ▪ To end ***on a positive note***, we are seeing an increase in sales this month. — opposite NEGATIVE

3 *not used before a noun* : completely certain or sure that something is correct or true ▪ We were *positive* that we would win the game. ▪ "That is the street we need to take." "Are you sure?" "(I'm) *Positive*." ▪ I'm not (absolutely) *positive*, but I think they won the World Series in 1954.

4 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : showing or expressing support, approval, or agreement ▪ Most of the response from the public has been *positive* [=*favorable*] so far. ▪ The reviews were mostly *positive*. ▪ *positive* feedback ▪ The new Web site has received a *positive* response from its visitors. — opposite NEGATIVE

5 : unable to be doubted : certainly true ▪ There is no *positive* [=*definite*, *conclusive*] proof that life exists on other planets. ▪ The police have not yet made a *positive* identification of the victim. ▪ The fact that the DNA samples did not match is ***proof positive*** that he is not the father.

6 : showing the presence of a particular germ, condition, or substance ▪ He tested *positive* for steroids. [=the test showed that he had used steroids] ▪ The test results were *positive*. ▪ HIV *positive* patients — opposite NEGATIVE

7 a *mathematics* : greater than zero ▪ a *positive* integer — opposite NEGATIVE **b** : more than the amount of money spent or invested ▪ We got a *positive* return on our investment. [=we made a profit on our investment] — opposite NEGATIVE

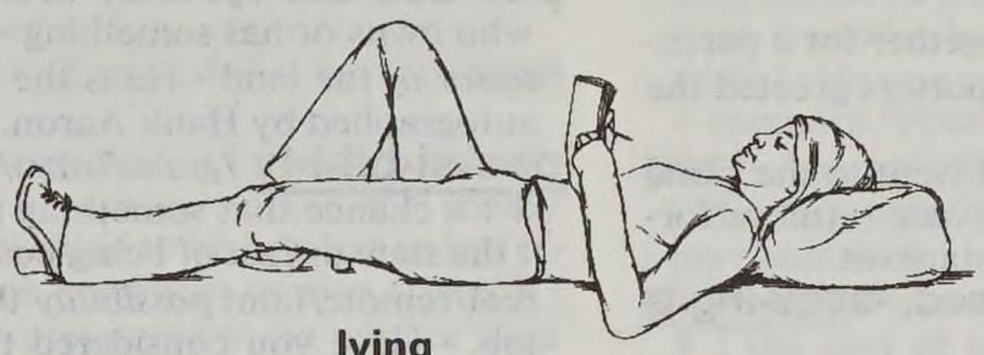
8 *technical* **a** : containing or producing electricity that is charged by a proton ▪ a *positive* charge/current — opposite NEGATIVE **b** : having more protons than electrons ▪ a *positive* ion/particle — opposite NEGATIVE

9 *always used before a noun, informal* : absolute or complete

position



kneeling



lying



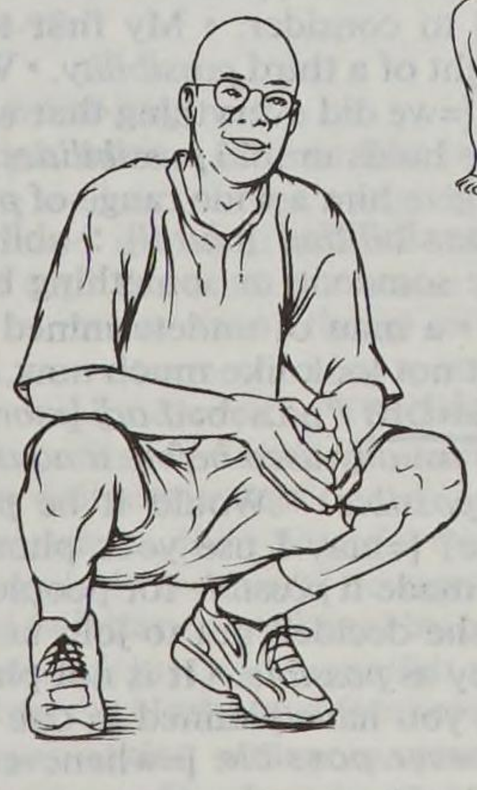
slouching



crouching



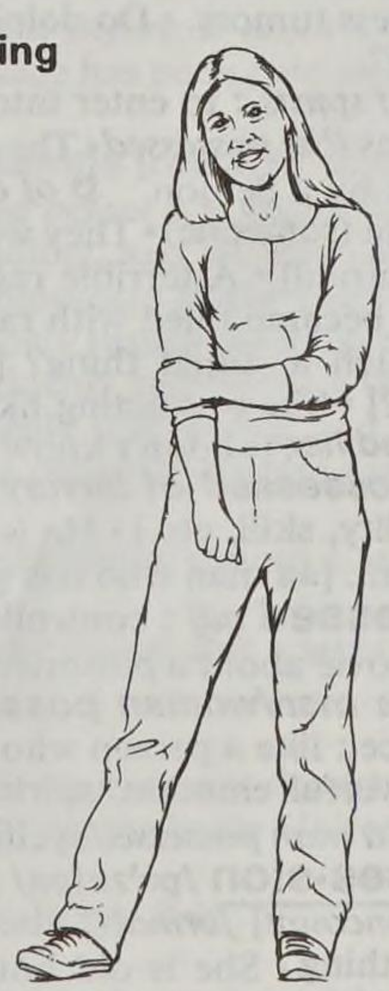
leaning



squatting



sitting



standing

P

— used to make a statement more forceful ▪ The way poor people are treated in this country is a *positive* disgrace.

²positive *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*]
1 : something that is good or useful ▪ The *positives* of living in the city include access to public transportation and many interesting restaurants. ▪ The *positives* of the job outweigh the negatives. [=there are more good things about the job than bad things] — opposite NEGATIVE
2 : the result from a test that shows that a particular germ, condition, or substance is present ▪ The test showed a *positive*. ▪ The test produced too many ***false positives*** [=results that showed something was present when it really was not] to be reliable. — opposite NEGATIVE
3 : a photograph that shows light and dark areas or colors as they look in real life — compare NEGATIVE

positive discrimination *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

pos•i•tive•ly /ˈpɑːzətɪvli/ *adv*
1 a — used to stress the truth of a statement ▪ The new City Hall building is *positively* [=*downright*] ugly. ▪ Driving a car without wearing a seatbelt is *positively* stupid. **b** — used to stress that you really mean what you are saying ▪ "Are you going out with him?" "*Positively* [=*certainly*] not!" ▪ This is *positively* [=*definitely*] the last time I'm going to bail you out!
2 [*more ~; most ~*] : in a positive way: such as **a** : in a way that shows that you are hopeful and thinking about the good qualities of a situation ▪ If you start thinking *positively*, you might feel better. **b** : in a way that shows that you agree with or approve of someone or something ▪ Only 35 percent of survey respondents view the state of the economy *positively*. ▪ Customers responded *positively* to the new product. **c** : in a certain or definite way ▪ No one was able to *positively* identify the corpse.
3 *technical* — used to say that something has a positive electric charge ▪ *positively* charged ions

pos•i•tron /ˈpɑːzəˌtrɑːn/ *noun, pl* **-trons** [*count*] *physics* : a very small particle of matter that has a positive charge of electricity and that travels around the nucleus of an atom

poss. *abbr* possible

pos•se /ˈpɑːsi/ *noun, pl* **-ses** [*count*]
1 : a group of people who were gathered together by a sheriff in the past to help search for a criminal ▪ The sheriff and his *posse* rode out to look for the bandits.
2 *informal* : a group of people who are together for a particular purpose — often + *of* ▪ A *posse of* reporters greeted the coach.
3 *informal* : a group of friends : GANG ▪ I went to the game with my *posse*. ▪ The movie star and his *posse* [=(more formally) *entourage*] were seen at the new restaurant.

pos•sess /pəˈzɛs/ *verb* **-sess•es**; **-sessed**; **-sess•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 *formal* : to have or own (something) ▪ nations that *possess* nuclear weapons ▪ The defendant was charged with *possessing* cocaine. ▪ The ruby was once *possessed* by an ancient queen. ▪ He dreams of someday *possessing* great wealth.
2 : to have or show (a particular quality, ability, skill, etc.) ▪ He *possesses* a keen wit. ▪ The drug *possesses* the potential to suppress tumors. ▪ Do dolphins *possess* the ability to use language?
3 a *of spirits* : to enter into and control (someone) — often used as *(be) possessed* ▪ The movie is about a child who *is possessed* by a demon. **b** *of emotions* : to have a powerful effect on (someone) ▪ They were *possessed* by fear. [=they were very afraid] ▪ A terrible rage *possessed* her at that moment. [=she became filled with rage] ▪ ***Whatever possessed him*** to say such a stupid thing? [=why did he say such a stupid thing?] ▪ She was acting like a fool. I don't know ***what possessed her***. [=I don't know why she acted that way]
be possessed of *literary* : to have (a particular quality, ability, skill, etc.) ▪ He is a man who is *possessed of* great talent. [=a man who has great talent]

possessed *adj* : controlled by a usually evil spirit ▪ a horror movie about a *possessed* child
like a man/woman possessed : with a lot of energy or force : like a person who is completely controlled by some powerful emotion, spirit, etc. ▪ He pounded on the door *like a man possessed*, yelling for someone to let him in.

pos•ses•sion /pəˈzɛʃən/ *noun, pl* **-sions**
1 [*noncount*] *formal* : the condition of having or owning something ▪ She is old but still has (full) *possession* of her senses/faculties. [=she is still able to think clearly] ▪ I have ***in my possession*** [=I possess] silverware that has been passed down in my family for generations. ▪ The city can ***take possession of*** the abandoned buildings. ▪ She ***came into possession of*** a rare silver coin.
2 [*count*] : something that is owned or possessed by someone ▪ The family lost all of its *possessions* in the fire. ▪ This ring was my mother's most precious *possession*. ▪ personal *possessions* [=*belongings*]
3 [*noncount*] *law* : the crime of having something that is illegal (such as a drug or weapon) ▪ The defendant was charged with heroin *possession*. ▪ *possession* of stolen property
4 [*count*] : a country that is controlled or governed by another country ▪ The U.S. has several *possessions* in the Pacific Ocean.
5 *sports* **a** [*noncount*] : control of the ball or puck in a game ▪ He took too long to shoot and lost *possession* of the puck. ▪ He did not have *possession* of the ball before he was knocked out of bounds. **b** [*count*] *American football* : a time when a team has control of the ball and is trying to score ▪ They scored a touchdown on each of their first two *possessions*.
6 [*noncount*] : the state of being controlled by a usually evil spirit ▪ demonic *possession*

¹pos•ses•sive /pəˈzɛsɪv/ *adj*
1 [*more ~; most ~*] : not willing to share things with or lend things to other people — often + *about* ▪ She is very *possessive about* her toys. — often + *of* ▪ He is quite *possessive of* his DVD collection.
2 [*more ~; most ~*] : wanting all of someone's attention and love ▪ If you marry him, he is only going to become even more jealous and *possessive* than he is now. ▪ a *possessive* boyfriend — often + *of* ▪ a mother who was very *possessive of* her son
3 *grammar* : relating to a word or a form of a word that shows that something or someone belongs to something or someone else ▪ The *possessive* form of "dog" is "dog's." ▪ "His" and "her" are ***possessive pronouns***.
– pos•ses•sive•ly *adv* ▪ "It's mine!" he said *possessively*.
– pos•ses•sive•ness *noun* [*noncount*]

²possessive *noun, pl* **-sives** *grammar*
1 [*count*] : a possessive word or phrase ▪ "Your" and "yours" are *possessives*.
2 ***the possessive*** : the form of a word that shows possession or belonging ▪ *The possessive* of "it" is "its."

pos•ses•sor /pəˈzɛsɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sors** [*count*] : a person who owns or has something — often + *of* ▪ (*formal*) the *possessor of* the land ▪ He is the ***proud possessor of*** a baseball autographed by Hank Aaron.

pos•si•bil•i•ty /ˌpɑːsəˈbɪləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**
1 : a chance that something might exist, happen, or be true : the state or fact of being possible [*count*] There is a strong/real/remote/faint *possibility* that I will not be chosen for the job. ▪ Have you considered the *possibility* that you may be wrong? — usually + *of* ▪ the *possibility* [=*likelihood*] *of* success/failure ▪ He received a life sentence without the *possibility of* parole. ▪ Is there a *possibility of* rain today? ▪ Scientists are still unsure about the *possibility of* life on other planets. [*noncount*] It is not outside ***the range/realm of possibility*** that he could get laid off. [=he might get laid off] ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) You shouldn't worry about things that are beyond ***the bounds of possibility***. [=things that cannot happen]
2 [*count*] : something that might be done or might happen : something that is possible ▪ Rain is a *possibility* today. [=it might rain today] ▪ There is a wide range of *possibilities* [=*options*] to consider. ▪ My first two ideas didn't work, but I thought of a third *possibility*. ▪ We ***exhausted all/the possibilities***. [=we did everything that we could think of doing] ▪ The future holds untold *possibilities*. ▪ His degree and job experience give him a wide range of *possibilities* for a career.
3 *possibilities* [*plural*] : abilities or qualities that could make someone or something better in the future : POTENTIAL ▪ a man of undetermined *possibilities* ▪ The old house might not look like much now, but it has *possibilities*.

¹pos•si•ble /ˈpɑːsəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 *not usually used before a noun* : able to be done ▪ It simply isn't *possible*. ▪ Would it be *possible* for me to use your phone? [=may I use your phone?] ▪ Advances in medicine have made it *possible* for people to live longer. ▪ It is *possible* that she decided not to join us. ▪ We tried to spend as little money as *possible*. ▪ It is not physically *possible* to do everything you have planned in one day. ▪ I like to go swimming ***whenever possible***. [=whenever there is an opportunity to swim] ▪ Do your best to come home from work early, ***if (at all) possible***. [=if it can be done] ▪ Come ***as soon/quickly as***

(humanly) possible [=as soon as you can] — opposite IMPOSSIBLE

2 : able to happen or exist ▪ We need to plan against *possible* dangers. [=dangers that may occur] ▪ The weather report warned of *possible* thunderstorms tonight. ▪ Thunderstorms are *possible* but not probable tonight. ▪ The highest *possible* score is 100. ▪ How *possible* [=*likely*] is rain today? ▪ What *possible* good can it do to argue? ▪ He is in the worst *possible* situation. ▪ It is *possible* that life exists on other planets.

3 *always used before a noun* : able or suited to be or to become something specified ▪ I found a *possible* site for a camp. ▪ She suggested a *possible* solution to the problem.

4 : reasonable to believe : perhaps true ▪ It's *possible* that your computer has a virus. ▪ Robbery is one *possible* motive for the murder.

[2]possible *noun, pl* **-sibles**

1 [*count*] : someone or something that might be suitable or acceptable for a particular job, purpose, etc. ▪ We have two *possibles* for the job.

2 ***the possible*** : something that can be done ▪ Finishing the job today is not outside the realm of *the possible*. [=is not impossible]

pos·si·bly /ˈpɑːsəbli/ *adv*

1 — used to say something might happen, exist, or be true but is not certain ▪ The exam will probably take you the whole hour to complete, *possibly* [=*perhaps*, *maybe*] even longer. ▪ The doctor says I might *possibly* regain full use of my hand. ▪ The fire could *possibly* have been caused by faulty wiring. ▪ It's *possibly* the worst movie I've ever seen. ▪ "Is it going to rain?" "***Quite possibly.***"

2 — used to show shock or surprise at something ▪ That cannot *possibly* be true. [=it is not possible that it is true] ▪ How could anyone *possibly* have done such a thing?

3 — used to ask for something politely ▪ Could you *possibly* get me some bread and milk while you're out?

4 — used to say that someone will do or has done everything that can be done to achieve something ▪ I will come as soon as I *possibly* can. ▪ I did all I *possibly* could to get here on time, but I got caught in traffic.

5 — used in negative statements to emphasize that something cannot or could not happen or be done ▪ I can't *possibly* tell you that. It's a secret. ▪ You couldn't *possibly* understand what I'm going through. ▪ You could not have *possibly* finished your homework in such a short amount of time.

pos·sum /ˈpɑːsəm/ *noun, pl* **pos·sums** *also* **possum** [*count*] : OPOSSUM

play possum *informal* **1** : to pretend to be asleep or dead ▪ The wounded soldier *played possum*, hoping the enemy would pass him by. **2** : to pretend to be helpless or less effective in order to deceive an opponent or save strength ▪ The boxer *played possum* [=pretended to be weaker than he was] for the first few rounds, letting his opponent tire himself out.

[1]post /ˈpoʊst/ *noun, pl* **posts** [*count*]

1 : a piece of wood or metal that is set in an upright position into or on the ground especially as a support or marker ▪ fence *posts* — see picture at HOUSE

2 : a pole that marks the starting or finishing point of a horse race — usually singular ▪ a horse's ***post position*** [=the position of a horse in the line of horses at the start of a race] ▪ (*Brit*) The horses galloped toward the ***finishing post***

3 : GOALPOST — usually singular ▪ The shot hit the *post*.

from pillar to post see PILLAR

– compare [3]POST, [4]POST

[2]post *verb* **posts; post·ed; post·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to put up (a sign, notice, etc.) so that it can be seen by many people ▪ When we lost our cat, we *posted* (up) signs all over the neighborhood asking if people had seen him. ▪ The professor *posted* (up) the students' exam grades outside her office. **b** : to make (something) officially known to many people ▪ A snowstorm warning was *posted* [=*announced*] for the New England area. ▪ The company *posted* [=*reported*] increased profits for the third quarter.

2 : to add (a message) to an online message board [+ *obj*] I read through the previous messages, then *posted* a quick response. [*no obj*] She *posts* regularly to several newsgroups.

3 [+ *obj*] *chiefly Brit* : to send (a letter or package) by mail ▪ If you find anything I've left behind, just *post* [=*mail*] it to me.

keep (someone) posted : to regularly give (someone) the most recent news about something ▪ *Keep me posted* on how the project is coming along. ▪ We don't know her condition yet, but we'll *keep you posted*.

post bail see [1]BAIL

– compare [5]POST

[3]post *noun, pl* **posts**

1 [*noncount*] *chiefly Brit* **a** : POSTAL SERVICE ▪ We don't have a telephone at the cottage, so contact us by *post*. [=*mail*] ▪ There are strict rules against sending dangerous materials through the *post*. **b** : letters or packages sent by post : MAIL ▪ He got a summer job delivering the *post*. ▪ Has the *post* come yet? ▪ After lunch, she sat and read the *post*. ▪ I put the payment in the *post* [=I mailed the payment] this morning. — see also PARCEL POST

2 [*count*] : a message on an online message board ▪ The Internet newsgroup is very active, with over 50 *posts* per day. — called also *posting*

by return of post see [2]RETURN

– compare [1]POST, [4]POST

[4]post *noun, pl* **posts**

1 [*count*] **a** : the place where a soldier or guard is told to be ▪ No matter what happens, do not abandon your *post*. [=do not leave your assigned area] ▪ a command *post* **b** : the place where someone does a job ▪ The bartender returned to her *post* behind the counter. **c** : a place where soldiers are sent to live for a period of time : CAMP ▪ My cousin's Army unit was recently sent to a *post* in Alaska. ▪ The large *post* houses over 25,000 people. — see also STAGING POST

2 [*count*] : a usually important job or position in a large organization ▪ Our old supervisor just retired, so they're looking for someone to fill his *post*. ▪ He resigned from his *post* as superintendent of public schools. ▪ She applied for a government/administrative *post*.

3 [*count*] : TRADING POST

4 ***the post*** *basketball* **a** : the area on a basketball court that is near the basket ▪ He was standing in *the post* all alone. **b** : the position of a player who is in the post ▪ She usually plays *the post*.

– compare [1]POST, [3]POST

[5]post *verb* **posts; posted; post·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to assign (someone, such as a guard) to stand or stay at a particular place ▪ Paramedics were *posted* nearby. ▪ The general *posted* a guard outside the door to his tent.

2 *chiefly Brit* : to send (someone) to a place to work for a long period of time as part of a job — usually + *to* ▪ Her company is *posting* her *to* New York City. — usually used as *(be) posted* ▪ He *was posted to* Munich, Germany.

– compare [2]POST

post- /ˌpoʊst/ *prefix* : after or later than ▪ the *post*war period [=the time after a war] ▪ *post*date ▪ the *post*industrial economy ▪ *post*-1990

post·age /ˈpoʊstɪʤ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the cost of sending a letter or package by mail ▪ How much is the *postage* for this package? ▪ Enclose two dollars for *postage* and handling.

2 : the stamps attached to a letter or package ▪ I hope I put enough *postage* on the package.

postage meter *noun, pl* ~ **-ters** [*count*] : a machine that stamps pieces of mail to show that postage has been paid

postage–paid *adj, always used before a noun* : costing nothing to mail because the postage has been paid already ▪ a *postage-paid* envelope/postcard

postage stamp *noun, pl* ~ **stamps** [*count*] : [1]STAMP 1

post·al /ˈpoʊstl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : relating to or involved in the sending, handling, and delivery of mail ▪ *postal* workers [=post office employees] ▪ *Postal* rates are going up. ▪ The city worked to quickly restore *postal* service.

go postal *US, informal* : to suddenly behave in a very violent or angry way ▪ She suddenly *went postal* and started yelling at the customers. ▪ If he calls me this late again, I'm going to *go postal* on him.

postal address *noun, pl* ~ **-dresses** [*count*] : MAILING ADDRESS

postal order *noun, pl* ~ **-ders** [*count*] *Brit* : MONEY ORDER

Postal Service *noun*

the Postal Service *US* : the U.S. government department in charge of collecting and delivering mail ▪ *the* United States *Postal Service*

post·bag /ˈpoʊstˌbæg/ *noun, pl* **-bags** *Brit*

1 [*count*] : MAILBAG

2 [*singular*] : the total number of letters received by a person, business, or organization at a particular time ▪ We re-

P

ceived a huge *postbag* on the spelling mistakes in our newsletter.

post•box /ˈpoʊstˌbɑ:ks/ *noun, pl* **-boxes** [*count*] *Brit* : MAILBOX 1

post•card /ˈpoʊstˌkɑɚd/ *noun, pl* **-cards** [*count*] : a card on which a message may be sent by mail without an envelope and that often has a picture on one side — see picture at MAIL; see also PICTURE POSTCARD

post•code /ˈpoʊstˌkoʊd/ *noun, pl* **-codes** [*count*] *Brit* : a group of numbers and letters that is used especially in the United Kingdom and Australia as part of an address to identify a mail delivery area — compare ZIP CODE

post•date /ˌpoʊstˈdeɪt/ *verb* **-dates**; **-dat•ed**; **-dat•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to give (something) a date that is later than the actual or current date ▪ *postdate* a check ▪ We sent the company a *postdated* check for next month's payment. — opposite ANTEDATE

2 : to exist, happen, or be made at a later time than (something) ▪ These buildings *postdate* World War II. [=they were built after World War II] — opposite ANTEDATE, PREDATE

post•doc•tor•al /ˌpoʊstˈdɑ:ktərəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : relating to work that is done after a PhD has been completed ▪ a *postdoctoral* fellowship ▪ *postdoctoral* research

post•er /ˈpoʊstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 a : a usually large printed notice often having a picture on it that is put in a public place to advertise something ▪ *Posters* for the concert have been going up all over town. ▪ campaign *posters* **b** : a usually large picture that is put on walls as a decoration ▪ His walls were covered with *posters* of his favorite bands.

2 : a person who writes messages on an online message board

poster boy *noun, pl* ~ **boys** [*count*] : a male poster child

poster child *noun, pl* ~ **children** [*count*] *US*

1 : a child who has a particular disease and is shown in posters to raise money to help fight that disease

2 : a person who represents or is identified with something (such as a cause or product) ▪ She was a stirring speaker and activist and soon became the *poster child* of the antiwar movement. ▪ (*humorous*) My brother is the *poster child* for laziness. [=he is very lazy]

poste res•tante /ˌpoʊstˌrɛˈstɑ:nt/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly Brit* : GENERAL DELIVERY

poster girl *noun, pl* ~ **girls** [*count*] : a female poster child

[1]pos•te•ri•or /poʊˈstiriɚ/ *adj, technical* : near or toward the back of something (such as the body) ▪ the *posterior* part of the brain — opposite ANTERIOR

[2]pos•te•ri•or /pɑˈstiriɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ors** [*count*] *humorous* : the part of the body above the legs that is used for sitting : BUTTOCKS ▪ The man squeezed his large *posterior* into the chair.

pos•ter•i•ty /pɑˈsterəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : people in the future ▪ *Posterity* will remember her as a woman of courage and integrity. ▪ A record of the events was ***preserved for posterity***. ▪ The truth about what happened will be known/lost ***to posterity***.

post exchange *noun, pl* ~ **-changes** [*count*] *US* : a store at a military post — abbr. *PX*

post–free /ˈpoʊstˈfri:/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly Brit* : POSTPAID ▪ *post-free* delivery

– **post–free** *adv* ▪ They sent me a brochure *post-free*.

post•game /ˈpoʊstˈgeɪm/ *adj, always used before a noun, US* : happening immediately or very soon after the end of a sports game ▪ a *postgame* interview/celebration

[1]post•grad•u•ate /ˌpoʊstˈgrædʒəwət/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to studies done after earning a bachelor's degree or other degree ▪ After college, she spent her first *postgraduate* year studying abroad. ▪ a *postgraduate* [=(*US*) *graduate*] student/course/program

[2]postgraduate *noun, pl* **-ates** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a student who continues to study for an advanced degree after earning a bachelor's degree or other first degree : a graduate student

post•haste /ˈpoʊstˈheɪst/ *adv, literary* : very quickly : with great speed — used after a verb ▪ They sent *posthaste* for the doctor. = They sent for the doctor *posthaste*.

post•hu•mous /ˈpɑ:stʃəməs/ *adj, always used before a noun* : happening, done, or published after someone's death ▪ She received a *posthumous* award for her life of philanthropy. ▪ her *posthumous* fame/reputation ▪ a *posthumous* novel/anthology/memoir

– **post•hu•mous•ly** *adv* ▪ The Army *posthumously* awarded him a medal for bravery. ▪ Her last book was published *posthumously*. [=after her death]

pos•tie /ˈpoʊsti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : LETTER CARRIER

post•ing /ˈpoʊstɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*]

1 *US* : a public announcement of something ▪ the company's latest *posting* of profits ▪ a job *posting* [=an announcement telling people that a position is open]

2 *chiefly Brit* : the act of sending someone to a place to work for a long period of time as part of a job ▪ military *postings* ▪ a Foreign Service *posting* in Paris

3 : [3]POST 2

Post–it /ˈpoʊstˌɪt/ *trademark* — used for a small, colored slip of paper with a sticky edge

post•man /ˈpoʊstmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a man who collects and delivers mail : MAILMAN

[1]post•mark /ˈpoʊstˌmɑɚk/ *noun, pl* **-marks** [*count*] : a mark placed over the stamp on a piece of mail that shows when the mail was sent and where it was sent from and that makes it impossible to use the stamp again — see picture at MAIL

[2]postmark *verb* **-marks**; **-marked**; **-mark•ing** [+ *obj*] : to put a postmark on (something) ▪ The package was *postmarked* 13 February.

post•mas•ter /ˈpoʊstˌmæstɚ, *Brit* ˈpəʊstˌmɑ:stə/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a person who is in charge of a post office

Postmaster General *noun, pl* **Postmasters General** [*count*] : the person who is in charge of the U.S. Postal Service

post•men•o•paus•al /ˌpoʊstˌmɛnəˈpɑ:zəl/ *adj, medical*

1 : having gone through menopause ▪ *postmenopausal* women

2 : happening after menopause ▪ *postmenopausal* symptoms

post•mis•tress /ˈpoʊstˌmɪstrəs/ *noun, pl* **-tress•es** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a woman who is in charge of a post office

post•mod•ern /ˌpoʊstˈmɑ:dɚn/ *adj* : of or relating to postmodernism ▪ *postmodern* architecture/literature

post•mod•ern•ism /ˌpoʊstˈmɑ:dɚˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a style of art, architecture, literature, etc., that developed after modernism and that differs from modernism in some important way (such as by combining traditional materials and forms with modern ones or by having an ironic tone or attitude)

– **post•mod•ern•ist** /ˌpoʊstˈmɑ:dɚnɪst/ *adj* ▪ a *postmodernist* author ▪ *postmodernist* art – **postmodernist** *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ The author is a *postmodernist*.

[1]post•mor•tem /ˌpoʊstˈmoɚtəm/ *adj, always used before a noun, medical* : happening after death ▪ a *postmortem* examination

[2]postmortem *noun, pl* **-tems** [*count*]

1 *medical* : an examination of a dead body to find out the cause of death : AUTOPSY ▪ A *postmortem* showed that the man had been poisoned.

2 : a discussion or analysis of something (such as an event) after it has ended ▪ Party leaders are conducting a *postmortem* of the election to try to find out what went wrong.

post•na•tal /ˌpoʊstˈneɪtl/ *adj, always used before a noun, medical* : relating to the period of time following the birth of a child ▪ *postnatal* care/depression

post office *noun, pl* ~ **-fices**

1 [*count*] : a building where the mail for a local area is sent and received — abbr. *P.O.*

2 ***the Post Office*** : the government department in charge of collecting and delivering mail ▪ She works for *the Post Office*. [=(*US*) *the Postal Service*]

post office box *noun, pl* ~ **boxes** [*count*] : P.O. BOX

post–op /ˈpoʊstˈɑ:p/ *adj, always used before a noun, medical* : POSTOPERATIVE ▪ a *post-op* procedure/patient

post•op•er•a•tive /ˌpoʊstˈɑ:prətɪv/ *adj, always used before a noun, medical*

1 : happening after an operation ▪ *postoperative* care

2 : having had an operation recently ▪ a *postoperative* patient

post•paid /ˈpoʊstˈpeɪd/ *adj* : costing nothing to mail because the postage has been paid already ▪ The shoes are $40 *postpaid*. ▪ a *postpaid* card

post•par•tum /ˌpoʊstˈpɑɚtəm/ *adj, always used before a noun, medical* : relating to or happening in the period of time following the birth of a child ▪ a *postpartum* examination/care

postpartum depression *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US, medical* : a feeling of deep sadness, anxiety, etc., that a wom-

an feels after giving birth to a child

post•pone /ˌpoʊstˈpoʊn/ *verb* **-pones**; **-poned**; **-pon•ing** [+ *obj*] : to decide that something which had been planned for a particular time will be done at a later time instead ▪ We had to *postpone* our vacation. = We had to *postpone* going on our vacation. ▪ The baseball game was *postponed* until/to tomorrow because of rain.

– **post•pone•ment** /ˌpoʊstˈpoʊnmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] After many *postponements*, the wedding finally took place. [*noncount*] The rain caused *postponement* of the baseball game.

post•pran•di•al /poʊstˈprændijəl/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal + humorous* : happening after a meal ▪ *postprandial* nausea ▪ a *postprandial* coffee/nap

post•script /ˈpoʊstˌskrɪpt/ *noun, pl* **-scripts** [*count*]

1 : a note or series of notes added at the end of a letter, article, or book ▪ In a *postscript* to her letter, she promised to write again soon. — abbr. *PS*

2 : an additional fact or piece of information about a story that occurs after the main part ▪ An interesting *postscript* to the story is that the two people involved later got married.

post•sea•son /ˈpoʊstˌsiːzn̩/ *noun, pl* **-sons** [*count*] *US, sports* : a period of time immediately after the regular season when teams play against each other in a series of games to determine a champion ▪ The team has never played in the *postseason*. — often used before another noun ▪ *postseason* games

post–traumatic stress disorder *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a mental condition that can affect a person who has had a very shocking or difficult experience (such as fighting in a war) and that is usually characterized by depression, anxiety, etc. — abbr. *PTSD* — called also *post-traumatic stress syndrome*

[1]pos•tu•late /ˈpɑːstʃəˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates**; **-lat•ed**; **-lat•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to suggest (something, such as an idea or theory) especially in order to start a discussion ▪ The theory *postulates* [=*claims, posits*] that carbon dioxide emissions contribute to global warming. ▪ Scientists have *postulated* the existence of water on the planet.

[2]pos•tu•late /ˈpɑːstʃələt/ *noun, pl* **-lates** [*count*] *formal* : a statement that is accepted as being true and that is used as the basis of a theory, argument, etc. ▪ Einstein's theory of relativity was deduced from two *postulates*.

pos•ture /ˈpɑːstʃɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tures**

1 : the way in which your body is positioned when you are sitting or standing [*count*] Human beings have an upright *posture*. ▪ a rigid/stiff *posture* [*noncount*] He has good/bad/poor *posture*.

2 [*count*] *formal* : the attitude a person or group has toward a subject — usually singular ▪ The country has taken an aggressive *posture* on immigration. ▪ She took a neutral *posture* in the argument.

– **pos•tur•al** /ˈpɑːstʃərəl/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* ▪ poor *postural* habits

pos•tur•ing /ˈpɑːstʃərɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *disapproving* : behavior that is intended to impress other people and that is not sincere ▪ Don't be fooled by his macho *posturing*. He's really a coward at heart.

post•war /ˈpoʊstˌwoɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : happening, existing, or made after a war ▪ the *postwar* generation ▪ *postwar* architecture; *especially* : happening, existing, or made after World War II ▪ *postwar* Europe — opposite PREWAR

post•wom•an /ˈpoʊstˌwʊmən/ *noun, pl* **-wom•en** /-ˌwɪmən/ [*count*] : a woman who collects or delivers mail : a female letter carrier

po•sy /ˈpoʊzi/ *noun, pl* **-sies** [*count*] *old-fashioned*

1 : a small bunch of flowers ▪ a *posy* of violets

2 : a single cut flower ▪ a pocket full of *posies*

[1]pot /ˈpɑːt/ *noun, pl* **pots**

1 [*count*] **a** : a deep, round container that is used for cooking ▪ a soup *pot* ▪ He scrubbed the *pots* and pans. — see picture at KITCHEN **b** : a container that is used for storing or holding something ▪ clay *pots* ▪ (*Brit*) a yogurt/paint *pot* ▪ He is growing tomato plants in *pots*. — see also CHAMBER POT, CHIMNEY POT, COFFEEPOT, FLOWERPOT, LOBSTER POT, MELTING POT, STOCKPOT, TEAPOT

2 [*count*] : the amount of something held by a pot — often + *of* ▪ She made a *pot of* tea.

3 [*count*] *informal* : a large amount of something — usually + *of* ▪ She earned a *pot of* money on that job. ▪ His comments have stirred up a *pot of* trouble. — often plural ▪ She earned *pots of* money.

4 *the pot* *chiefly US* **a** : the total amount of money that can be won in a card game and that is made up of all the bets put together : KITTY ▪ He took *the pot*. [=he won all the money that was bet] ▪ There is over $100 in *the pot*. **b** : the total amount of money that has been gathered from many people for some purpose : KITTY ▪ A donor added $1,000 to *the pot* in support of the theater company.

5 [*count*] *informal* : POTBELLY — usually singular ▪ I'm so out of shape—look at this *pot*!

6 [*count*] *informal* : TOILET — usually singular ▪ sat on the *pot*

7 [*count*] *Brit* : a shot that causes a ball to fall into a pocket in games like snooker and pool

a watched pot never boils see [1]BOIL

go to pot *informal* : to be ruined : to fail ▪ Their business is *going to pot*.

– compare [2]POT

[2]pot *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : MARIJUANA ▪ an ounce of *pot* ▪ a *pot* smoker/plant — compare [1]POT

[3]pot *verb* **pots**; **pot•ted**; **pot•ting** [+ *obj*]

1 : to plant (something) in a pot ▪ She spent the afternoon *potting* tulip bulbs.

2 *Brit* : to shoot (a ball) into a pocket in games like snooker and pool ▪ He *potted* [=*pocketed, sank*] the winning shot.

3 *Brit* : to shoot and kill (an animal) ▪ She *potted* a bird.

po•ta•ble /ˈpoʊtəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *technical* : safe to drink ▪ *potable* water

pot•ash /ˈpɑːtˌæʃ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a form of potassium that is used especially to improve soil or to make soap

po•tas•si•um /pəˈtæsijəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a soft, silver-white metal that is used especially in farming and industry

po•ta•to /pəˈteɪtoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-toes**

1 : a round root of a plant that has brown, yellow, or red skin and white or yellow flesh and that is eaten as a vegetable [*count*] baked/mashed/roasted/boiled *potatoes* [*noncount*] slices of *potato* ▪ mashed *potato* ▪ *potato* salad — see color picture on page C4; see also JACKET POTATO, SWEET POTATO

2 [*count*] : the plant that produces potatoes ▪ She's growing carrots and *potatoes* in her garden this year.

– see also COUCH POTATO, HOT POTATO, MEAT AND POTATOES, SMALL POTATOES

potato chip *noun, pl* ~ **chips** [*count*] *US* : a thin slice of potato that is fried or sometimes baked and usually salted ▪ I had a sandwich and a bag of *potato chips* for lunch. — called also (*Brit*) *crisp*, (*Brit*) *potato crisp*

potato pancake *noun, pl* ~ **-cakes** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a fried, flat cake consisting of potato mixed with egg and usually onion and spices

pot•bel•lied /ˈpɑːtˌbɛlid/ *adj* : having a large, round stomach that sticks out ▪ a *potbellied* man

potbellied pig *noun, pl* ~ **pigs** [*count*] : a small pig with a large belly and usually a black or white coat

potbellied stove *noun, pl* ~ **stoves** [*count*] *US* : a stove with a large, rounded body — called also *potbelly stove*

pot•bel•ly /ˈpɑːtˌbɛli/ *noun, pl* **-lies** [*count*]

1 : a large, round stomach that sticks out ▪ a man with a *potbelly*

2 : POTBELLIED STOVE

potbelly stove *noun, pl* ~ **stoves** [*count*] : POTBELLIED STOVE

pot•boil•er /ˈpɑːtˌboɪlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a book, movie, etc., that is made in usually a cheap way in order to make money rather than for artistic reasons

po•ten•cy /ˈpoʊtn̩si/ *noun, pl* **-cies**

1 [*noncount*] : the power to influence someone ▪ Her words had *potency*. — often + *of* ▪ I can't deny the *potency of* his argument.

2 : the strength or effectiveness of something [*count*] drugs of high *potencies* [*noncount*] vitamins of high *potency*

3 [*noncount*] : the ability of a man to have sex ▪ The drug can improve ***sexual potency***.

po•tent /ˈpoʊtn̩t/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 a : very effective or strong ▪ *potent* medicine ▪ The tea was *potent*. **b** : having a very powerful effect or influence on someone ▪ He had *potent* arguments for going to war. ▪ Her story serves as a *potent* reminder of the dangers of drug use.

2 *of a man* : able to have sex — opposite IMPOTENT

– **po•tent•ly** *adv* ▪ a *potently* meaningful speech

P

po·ten·tate /'poʊtn̩ˌteɪt/ *noun, pl* **-tates** [*count*] *literary* : a powerful ruler ▪ medieval *potentates*

[1]po·ten·tial /pə'tɛnʃəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : capable of becoming real : POSSIBLE ▪ Doctors are excited about the new drug's *potential* benefits. ▪ Critics say the factory poses a *potential* threat to the environment. ▪ the school's *potential* growth ▪ He is a *potential* candidate for president. ▪ The project has *potential* risks/advantages.
– **po·ten·tial·ly** *adv* ▪ a *potentially* deadly virus

[2]potential *noun, pl* **-tials**
1 [*count*] : a chance or possibility that something will happen or exist in the future — usually singular; usually + *for* ▪ Wet roads increase the *potential for* an accident. [=make an accident more likely to happen] ▪ If you study hard, there is a greater *potential for* success.
2 a : a quality that something has that can be developed to make it better [*count*] Scientists are exploring the *potentials* of the new drug. ▪ The stock's earning *potential* is high. [=the stock is likely to earn a lot of money] ▪ The new technology has the *potential* to transform the industry. [*noncount*] There is *potential* in the new technology, but it will be a long time before it can actually be used. ▪ The company has a lot of *potential* for future growth. **b** [*noncount*] : an ability that someone has that can be developed to help that person become successful ▪ The team's newest player shows great *potential*. [=*promise*] ▪ He has the *potential* to be one of the team's best players. ▪ She has leadership *potential*. [=she could become a successful leader] ▪ He shows enormous *potential* as an athlete. ▪ The school tries to help students ***reach/realize their full potential***. [=to become the best they can be]
3 [*count, noncount*] *technical* : the amount of work that is required to move a quantity of electricity from one point on a circuit to another ✧ This kind of work is usually measured in volts. ▪ The instrument is used to measure the changing electrical *potentials*.

potential energy *noun* [*noncount*] *physics* : the energy that something has because of its position or the way its parts are arranged ✧ Potential energy is energy that is not yet being used.

po·ten·ti·al·i·ty /pəˌtɛnʃi'æləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** *formal*
1 : a quality that can be developed to make someone or something better [*count*] They underestimated his *potentialities*. [*noncount*] The teacher sees *potentiality* [=*potential*] in every student.
2 [*count*] : a chance or possibility that something will happen or exist in the future — usually singular ▪ There is a/the *potentiality* for good in all people.

pot·head /'pɑːtˌhɛd/ *noun, pl* **-heads** [*count*] *US, informal* : a person who smokes a lot of marijuana

pot·hold·er /'pɑːtˌhoʊldɚ/ *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *US* : a small, thick cloth pad that people use to protect their hands when they are holding hot cooking pots, pans, etc. — see picture at KITCHEN

pot·hole /'pɑːtˌhoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-holes** [*count*] : a deep, round hole in a road or some other surface (such as the bottom of a river) — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The project hit a big *pothole* a few weeks ago.
– **pot·holed** /'pɑːtˌhoʊld/ *adj* ▪ the city's *potholed* streets

po·tion /'poʊʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] : a drink that is meant to have a special or magical effect on someone ▪ He drank the fatal *potion*. ▪ The hero in the play is given a magic/love *potion* so that he will fall in love with the princess. ▪ medical *potions* ▪ sleeping *potions*

pot·luck (*US*) *or Brit* **pot luck** /'pɑːt'lʌk/ *noun, pl* **-lucks**
1 [*count*] *US* : a meal to which everyone who is invited brings food to share ▪ He organized a neighborhood *potluck* for next Saturday. — often used before another noun ▪ a *potluck* dinner/supper
2 [*noncount*] *chiefly Brit* : a meal for a guest that is prepared from whatever is available ▪ I wasn't expecting you for dinner, so you'll have to ***take pot luck***. — often used figuratively ▪ We don't have definite plans. We're just going to *take pot luck*. [=we're just going to take/accept whatever is available and hope that it is good]

pot·pie /'pɑːt'paɪ/ *noun, pl* **-pies** [*count*] *US* : a mixture of meat and vegetables that is covered with a layer of pastry and cooked in a deep dish ▪ a chicken/turkey *potpie*

pot plant *noun, pl* ~ **plants** [*count*]
1 *chiefly US, informal* : a marijuana plant
2 *Brit* : HOUSEPLANT

pot·pour·ri /ˌpoʊpʊ'riː/ *noun, pl* **-ris**
1 [*count, noncount*] : a mixture of dried flower petals, leaves, and spices that is used to make a room smell pleasant
2 [*singular*] : a collection of different things ▪ The festival was a musical *potpourri*—performances included folk, jazz, blues, and rap music. — often + *of* ▪ The book is a *potpourri* [=*assortment, medley*] *of* stories about family, religion, and food.

pot roast *noun, pl* ~ **roasts** [*count, noncount*] : a piece of beef that is cooked slowly in a pot

pot·shot /'pɑːtˌʃɑːt/ *noun, pl* **-shots** [*count*] : a gunshot that is fired in a careless way or at an easy target ▪ A sniper was on the roof ***taking potshots*** at passing cars. — often used figuratively to describe a careless or unfair criticism ▪ She uses her newspaper column to *take potshots* at anyone who disagrees with her. ▪ a verbal *potshot*

pot·tage /'pɑːtɪʤ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *old-fashioned* : a thick soup of vegetables and often meat
a mess of pottage : something that has little or no value ▪ They sold/traded their birthright for *a mess of pottage*.

pot·ted /'pɑːtəd/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : growing in a pot rather than in the ground ▪ *potted* palms/plants/herbs
2 : cooked and then preserved in a pot, jar, or can ▪ *potted* meats
3 *chiefly Brit, informal* : giving only the most important information about something : brief and simplified ▪ The book gives a *potted* history of the Industrial Revolution in the first chapter. ▪ a *potted* summary/version

[1]pot·ter /'pɑːtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a person who makes pots, bowls, plates, etc., out of clay : a person who makes pottery by hand

[2]potter *verb* **-ters; -tered; -ter·ing**
potter around/about [*phrasal verb*] *Brit* : to spend time in a relaxed way doing small jobs and other things that are not very important ▪ He spent his vacation ***pottering around*** [=(*US*) *puttering around*] the house/garden.
– **pot·ter·er** /'pɑːtɚɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

potter's wheel *noun, pl* ~ **wheels** [*count*] : a machine with a flat disk on which a potter shapes wet clay into pots as it spins

pot·tery /'pɑːtəri/ *noun, pl* **-ter·ies**
1 [*noncount*] : objects (such as bowls, plates, etc.) that are made out of clay usually by hand and then baked at high temperatures so that they become hard ▪ He has collected *pottery* for years. ▪ a glazed *pottery* jar
2 [*noncount*] : the art or activity of making objects out of clay ▪ She was a painter for years before she discovered *pottery*. ▪ a *pottery* class ▪ *pottery* techniques
3 [*count*] : a place where potters make objects out of clay

potting shed *noun, pl* ~ **sheds** [*count*] : a small building in which plants are grown in pots until they are ready to be planted outside

potting soil *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : a mixture of dirt and other substances that people use when placing plants in pots

[1]pot·ty /'pɑːti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** *informal*
1 [*count*] : a pot that children use as a toilet until they are big enough to use a toilet
2 ***the potty*** : the toilet or bathroom — used by children or when talking to children ▪ Mommy, I need to use *the potty*.
go potty *US, informal* : to use the toilet — used by children or when talking to children. ▪ Be sure to *go potty* before we leave the house. ▪ I have to *go potty*.

[2]potty *adj* **pot·ti·er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*] *Brit, informal*
1 : CRAZY ▪ I think he's ***gone a little potty***. ▪ All this noise is ***driving me potty***!
2 : very interested in or excited about someone or something ▪ She's just *potty* about this new dance class.

pot·ty–mouthed /'pɑːtiˌmaʊðd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *US, informal* : using indecent or offensive language : FOULMOUTHED ▪ *potty-mouthed* comedians
– **potty mouth** *noun, pl* ~ **mouths** [*count*] *US, informal* ▪ a comedian who has/is a *potty mouth* [=a comedian who uses a lot of offensive language]

potty training *noun* [*noncount*] : TOILET TRAINING
– **potty–train** *verb* **-trains; -trained; -training** [+ *obj*] ▪ She's trying to *potty-train* her daughter. – **potty–trained** *adj* ▪ The twins are *potty-trained* now.

pouch /'paʊʧ/ *noun, pl* **pouch·es** [*count*]
1 a : a small bag ▪ He carried his money in a small leather *pouch* in his pocket. ▪ a tobacco *pouch* **b** : a bag often with a lock that is used to carry letters or important papers ▪ a mail *pouch*
2 a : a pocket of skin on the stomachs of some female ani-

mals (such as kangaroos and koalas) that is used to carry young **b** : a pocket of skin inside the mouths of some animals (such as squirrels and hamsters) that is used to carry food

– **pouchy** /'paʊʧi/ *adj* **pouch•i•er**; **-est** ▪ *pouchy* [=*baggy*] eyes

pouf *also* **pouffe** /'pu:f/ *noun, pl* **poufs** *also* **pouffes** [*count*] *Brit* : OTTOMAN

poul•tice /'poʊltəs/ *noun, pl* **-tic•es** [*count*] : a soft, usually heated substance that is spread on cloth and then placed on the skin to heal a sore or reduce pain

poul•try /'poʊltri/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : birds (such as chickens and ducks) that are raised on farms for their eggs or meat

2 : meat from a bird ▪ This wine goes well with *poultry*.

pounce /'paʊns/ *verb* **pounc•es**; **pounced**; **pounc•ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to suddenly jump toward and take hold of someone or something ▪ The cat crouched low and waited for the moment to *pounce*. — usually + *on* ▪ As the boys rounded the corner, a group of kids *pounced on* them. — often used figuratively ▪ A salesperson *pounced on* me [=quickly approached me] as soon as I walked into the store. ▪ When a few documents showed that the mayor had avoided paying his taxes, the press *pounced on* [=*attacked*] him. ▪ She lost control of the ball, and the other team *pounced on* the opportunity to score. ▪ He *pounced on* the job offer.

2 : to act or move quickly and suddenly ▪ Movie studios are ready to *pounce* as soon as she announces that she's making movies again. ▪ She *pounced* at the phone when it rang.

[1]pound /'paʊnd/ *noun, pl* **pounds** *also* **pound**

1 [*count*] : a unit of weight that is equal to 16 ounces or 0.4536 kilograms ▪ The recipe calls for a *pound* of ground beef. ▪ a 50-*pound* dog = a dog that weighs 50 *pounds* ▪ Chicken is on sale this week for $3 per/a *pound*. ▪ I gained some weight last winter and I'm trying to lose a few *pounds*. ▪ ***Pound for pound***, it's the most valuable crop being grown in the state. [=when comparing a pound of this crop with a pound of other crops, a pound of this crop is more valuable]

2 a [*count*] : a basic unit of money in the United Kingdom and some other countries ▪ The bill came to 30 *pounds* 10 pence. ▪ Rent for the flat is 600 *pounds* per/a month. ▪ a five-*pound* note **b** [*count*] : a bill or coin that is worth one pound ▪ "Do you have any cash on you?" "I've got a few *pounds* in my wallet." **c** ***the pound*** *technical* : the value of a pound when it is compared to another unit of money ▪ The dollar dropped sharply against *the pound*. ▪ the strength/weakness of *the pound*

in for a penny, in for a pound see PENNY

pile on the pounds see [2]PILE

pound of flesh : an amount that is owed to someone who demands to be paid ▪ When the creditors came to collect their *pound of flesh*, he had nothing to give them.

– compare [2]POUND, [3]POUND; see also POUND CAKE

[2]pound *noun, pl* **pounds** [*count*]

1 : a place where dogs and cats that are found on the streets without an owner are kept until their owners come and get them

2 : a place to which cars that have been parked illegally are towed and kept until their owners pay to get them back

– compare [1]POUND, [3]POUND

[3]pound *noun, pl* **pounds** [*count*] *US* : the symbol # ▪ To record a message, press *pound*. = To record a message, press the ***pound key***. [=press the button/key labeled "#"] — called also (*US*) *pound sign*, (*Brit*) *hash*, (*Brit*) *hash sign* — compare [1]POUND, [2]POUND

[4]pound *verb* **pounds**; **pound•ed**; **pound•ing**

1 : to hit (something or someone) with force again and again [+ *obj*] Heavy waves *pounded* the shore. ▪ The metal is heated and then *pounded* into shape. ▪ She *pounded* [=*drove*] the nails into the wood. ▪ He got frustrated and started to *pound* the piano keys. ▪ He *pounded* his fist on the table. ▪ The boxers were really *pounding* each other. [*no obj*] Someone is *pounding* [=*banging*] at the door. ▪ Waves *pounded* against the side of the boat. — often + *on* ▪ He began to *pound on* a drum.

2 [+ *obj*] : to crush or break (something) into very small pieces by hitting it again and again ▪ The wheat is *pounded* into flour. ▪ *Pound* the herbs and garlic until they form a paste.

3 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to walk or run with heavy and loud steps ▪ He came *pounding* down the stairs. ▪ The horses *pounded* up the track.

4 [*no obj*] : to work hard at something for a long time — usually + *away* ▪ He *pounded away* all night at his computer, writing the report. ▪ I don't feel like I'm making much progress, but I keep *pounding away*.

5 [*no obj*] : to beat loudly and quickly ▪ He woke from the dream in a cold sweat with his heart *pounding* (in his ears). ▪ I took an aspirin because my head was *pounding*. ▪ a *pounding* [=*throbbing*] headache

6 [+ *obj*] : to bomb (an area) many times ▪ Bombers *pounded* the city all night.

7 [+ *obj*] *US, informal* : to drink (something) quickly ▪ They *pounded* (back) a few beers at the bar.

pound out [*phrasal verb*] ***pound out (something) or pound (something) out*** **1** : to make or produce (something) quickly ▪ Every week he *pounds out* [=*bangs out*] another column for the newspaper. **2** : to play (a song, melody, etc.) loudly on a musical instrument (such as a piano) ▪ The band's lead singer was *pounding out* [=*banging out*] a tune on the piano.

pound the streets/pavement : to walk or run on the street especially in search of something ▪ She's out there every day *pounding the pavement*, looking for work. ▪ Hard-core joggers will *pound the streets* in all kinds of weather.

pound•age /'paʊndɪʤ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 *technical* : an amount charged for every pound that something weighs

2 *informal* : body weight ▪ She's carrying some extra *poundage* after the holidays.

pound cake *noun, pl* ~ **cakes** [*count, noncount*] *US* : a rich cake made with a large amount of butter and eggs

pound•er /'paʊndɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a person or thing that has a specified weight in pounds — used in combination ▪ The fish was a 22-*pounder*. [=the fish weighed 22 pounds] ▪ He's the team's only 300-*pounder*. [=a person who weighs 300 pounds]

2 : a gun that fires a shell of a specified weight ▪ a 64-*pounder*

pound–fool•ish /'paʊnd'fu:lɪʃ/ *adj*

penny-wise and/but pound-foolish see PENNY-WISE

pounding *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 [*count*] : the act of hitting someone or something with force again and again — usually singular ▪ We could hear the *pounding* of waves against the shore. ▪ There was a *pounding* [=*banging*] on/at my door early the next morning. ▪ The boxer ***took a pounding*** [=*took a beating*] in the ring. — often used figuratively ▪ They gave us a *pounding* in the first half of the game. ▪ The company's stocks *took a pounding*.

2 [*singular*] : the act of beating loudly and quickly ▪ I could feel a *pounding* in my chest. = I could feel the *pounding* of my heart in my chest.

pound sign *noun, pl* ~ **signs** [*count*]

1 : the symbol £ that represents the British pound

2 *US* : [3]POUND

pound sterling *noun, pl* **pounds sterling** [*count*] : a basic unit of money in the United Kingdom : POUND

pour /'poɚ/ *verb* **pours**; **poured**; **pour•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to flow in a steady stream from or into a container or place ▪ He carefully *poured* the water into her glass. ▪ *Pour* the sauce over the pasta. ▪ She *poured* salt into the palm of her hand and then sprinkled it over the stew. ▪ The smokestacks *poured* out thick clouds of black smoke. ▪ The burst pipe *poured* out water. ▪ The concrete foundation has been *poured*. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ She ***poured scorn on*** the plan. [=she talked about the plan in a very critical and scornful way]

2 : to fill a cup or glass with a drink for someone [+ *obj*] Will you *pour* (out) the wine? [=will you fill everyone's glass with wine?] ▪ *Pour* a drink for me, please. = *Pour* me a drink, please. ▪ Can I *pour* you some lemonade? ▪ He *poured* [=*served*] himself a (cup of) coffee. [*no obj*] Could you please *pour*?

3 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to flow or move continuously in a steady stream ▪ Light *poured* [=*streamed*] down from the hole in the roof. ▪ Smoke *poured* out from the chimney. ▪ Sweat was *pouring* from her brow. — often used figuratively ▪ Music *pours* out of the dance clubs at night. ▪ All of his pent-up emotion came *pouring* out. ▪ She started crying, and then the whole story of what happened came *pouring* out. ▪ Orders for the soap have started to *pour* in. ▪ Thousands of people *poured* into the stadium for the game. ▪ People *poured* out of the subway.

4 [*no obj*] **a** : to rain heavily ▪ It *poured* all day. ▪ It was *pouring* the whole time we were there. ▪ (*Brit*) It is ***pouring (down)***

with rain **b** *of rain* : to come down heavily ▪ The rain ***poured down*** ▪ We had to wait for hours in the ***pouring rain***.
pour cold water on see [1]WATER
pour into [*phrasal verb*] ***pour (something) into (something)*** : to spend (a large amount of money, time, energy, etc.) on something ▪ She has *poured* thousands (of dollars) *into* the business. ▪ He has been *pouring* all his time/resources *into* the project.
pour oil on troubled waters *chiefly Brit* : to try to make peace between people who are arguing
pour on [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***pour on (something)*** *or* ***pour (something) on*** : to produce a lot of (something) in order to achieve something ▪ The defense *poured on* the pressure in the second half of the game. ▪ He really *poured on* the charm to get her to have dinner with him. **2** ***pour it on*** *informal* **a** : to talk about something in an emotional way that is not sincere in order to get sympathy, attention, etc. ▪ When he saw that she felt sorry for him, he really *poured it on*. **b** *chiefly US* : to do something in a very energetic and effective way ▪ After they took the lead in the second half, they really started to *pour it on*. [=they started to score a lot of points very quickly]
pour out [*phrasal verb*] ***pour out (something)*** *or* ***pour (something) out*** : to freely express (an emotion) : to talk freely about (something personal) ▪ I listened while he *poured out* his anger and frustration. ▪ I'm sorry about *pouring out* my troubles like this. ▪ She *poured out* the whole story.
pour your heart/soul out *or* ***pour out your heart/soul*** : to speak very freely to someone about how your private and most deeply felt emotions ▪ He'll *pour his heart out* to anyone who will listen.
when it rains, it pours *or* ***it never rains but it pours*** see [2]RAIN

pout /ˈpaʊt/ *verb* **pouts**; **pout•ed**; **pout•ing**
1 : to push out your lips to show that you are angry or annoyed or to look sexually attractive [+ *obj*] She *pouted* her lips and stared at him angrily. [*no obj*] The boy didn't want to leave—he stomped his feet and *pouted*. ▪ The model *pouted* for the cameras. ▪ Her lips *pouted*, and she began to cry.
2 [*no obj*] *chiefly US* : to refuse to talk to people because you are angry or annoyed about something ▪ Whenever he doesn't get his own way, he *pouts*. [=*sulks*] ▪ Quit *pouting*!
– **pout** *noun, pl* **pouts** [*count*] ▪ She had a sultry *pout* on her lips. – **pouted** *adj* ▪ *pouted* lips – **pouty** /ˈpaʊti/ *adj* **pout•i•er**; **-est** ▪ *pouty* lips ▪ He had a *pouty* look on his face.

POV *abbr, chiefly US* point of view

pov•er•ty /ˈpɑːvəti/ *noun*
1 [*noncount*] : the state of being poor ▪ rural/urban *poverty* ▪ families living in *poverty* ▪ He came from *poverty*. ▪ He was born in/into *poverty*.
2 [*singular*] *formal* : a lack *of* something ▪ There is a *poverty of* information about the disease. ▪ a *poverty of* imagination

poverty line *noun*
the poverty line : the level of income that makes it possible for a person to pay for basic food, clothing, and shelter ▪ Many families in the city are living below/at *the poverty line*. — called also *poverty level*

pov•er•ty–strick•en /ˈpɑːvəti,strɪkən/ *adj* : very poor ▪ *poverty-stricken* neighborhoods/families

poverty trap *noun, pl* ~ **traps** [*count*] : a situation in which a person who is poor is unable to escape from poverty; *especially, chiefly Brit* : a situation in which a poor person who gets a job will remain poor because the amount of money that person receives from the government will be reduced

pow /ˈpaʊ/ *interj*
1 — used to express the sound of an explosion, a gun firing, or a person hitting another person ▪ We were talking and then . . . *Pow*! Someone hit him from behind.
2 — used to show that something has happened suddenly ▪ I was relaxing with a cup of tea and then—*pow*! I suddenly remembered where I was supposed to be.

POW /ˌpiːˌoʊˈdʌbəlˌjuː/ *noun, pl* **POWs** [*count*] : PRISONER OF WAR ▪ missing *POWs* ▪ a *POW* camp

[1]pow•der /ˈpaʊdə/ *noun, pl* **-ders**
1 : a dry substance made up of very tiny pieces of something [*noncount*] garlic/chili/cocoa *powder* [*count*] The *powder* is made from the roots of the plant. ▪ Mix together the different *powders*. ▪ She crushed the peppercorns into a fine *powder*. — see also BAKING POWDER, CHILI POWDER, CURRY POWDER, FIVE-SPICE POWDER, SOAP POWDER
2 [*noncount*] : a very fine, dry substance that is put on your body or face especially to make it dry or less shiny ▪ The girls put on their lipstick and (face) *powder* before heading out to the dance. ▪ We're running low on ***baby powder*** and diapers. — see picture at GROOMING; see also TALCUM POWDER
3 [*noncount*] : snow that is very light and dry ▪ We woke this morning to several inches of fresh *powder* on the ground. — often used before another noun ▪ *powder* skiing/snow
4 [*noncount*] : GUNPOWDER — see also POWDER KEG
keep your powder dry *old-fashioned* : to be calm and ready for a possible problem in the future ▪ They don't know how the election will turn out, so for now they're just *keeping their powder dry*.
take a powder *US, informal + old-fashioned* : to leave suddenly and quickly ▪ The boys decided to *take a powder* as soon as they saw there was work to be done.

[2]powder *verb* **-ders**; **-dered**; **-der•ing** [+ *obj*] : to put powder on (your face or body) ▪ She *powdered* her face and put on lipstick.
powder your nose *somewhat old-fashioned* — used by women as a polite way of excusing themselves from a table, conversation, etc., to go to the bathroom ▪ Excuse me. I'm just going to go *powder my nose*. I'll be right back.

powder blue *noun* [*noncount*] : a pale blue color — see color picture on page C2

pow•dered *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : in the form of a powder: such as **a** : made into a dry powder by having all the water removed ▪ *powdered* milk/ink **b** : having been crushed or ground into a powder ▪ *powdered* shells/charcoal
2 : covered in powder ▪ *powdered* wigs/cheeks

powdered sugar *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : sugar that has been ground into a fine powder — called also (*US*) *confectioners' sugar*, (*Brit*) *icing sugar*

powder keg *noun, pl* ~ **kegs** [*count*]
1 : a small container that is used to hold gunpowder
2 : a place or situation that is likely to become dangerous or violent soon ▪ Political instability has made the region a *powder keg*.

powder puff *noun, pl* ~ **puffs** [*count*] : a small, round piece of soft material that is used to put powder on your face or body

powder room *noun, pl* ~ **rooms** [*count*]
1 *US* : a small bathroom especially for guests that has a toilet and sink but not a bathtub or shower
2 : a public bathroom for women in a restaurant, hotel, etc.

pow•dery /ˈpaʊdəri/ *adj*
1 : like powder ▪ *powdery* ashes ▪ the beach's *powdery* white sand
2 : covered with powder ▪ We skied down the *powdery* slopes.

[1]pow•er /ˈpawə/ *noun, pl* **-ers**
1 [*noncount*] : the ability or right to control people or things ▪ She is from a very wealthy family with a lot of social *power*. ▪ a politician who is hungry for *power* = a *power*-hungry politician ▪ The company abused its *power*, forcing workers to work overtime without pay. ▪ The company was almost destroyed in a ***power struggle*** between its two founders. ▪ She had them ***in her power***. [=she controlled them] ▪ I'm sorry, but I don't have it *in my power* to help you. [=I don't have the power to help you; I can't help you] — often + *over* ▪ He has no *power over* me.
2 [*noncount*] : political control of a country or area ▪ After the emperor died, *power* passed to his eldest son. ▪ the peaceful transfer of *power* to the newly elected president ▪ The president was removed from *power* in the recent uprising. ▪ The new government has ***taken power***. ▪ The latest elections put a new (political) party ***in power***. ▪ The rebels ***rose/came to power*** several years ago. — see also BLACK POWER, FLOWER POWER
3 [*count*] **a** : a person or organization that has a lot of control and influence over other people or organizations ▪ A small company with only a few products has grown to become a *power* in the industry. ▪ Our state is now the region's leading economic *power*. **b** : a country that has a lot of influence and military strength ▪ a foreign *power* ▪ the European *powers* — see also GREAT POWER, SUPERPOWER, WORLD POWER
4 [*noncount*] **a** : physical force or strength ▪ Getting the floor clean required lots of muscle *power*. — often + *of* ▪ I was impressed by the sheer *power of* her tennis serve. ▪ the *power of* hurricane winds **b** : military force ▪ They are threatening to use air/military *power* to resolve the conflict.

— see also BALANCE OF POWER, FIREPOWER, SEA POWER

c : the energy or force that someone or something can produce for movement, work, etc. ▪ He could not walk ***under his own power.*** [=he could not walk without help] ▪ The machines are running ***at full power.*** [=are doing as much work as they can possibly do]

5 a : an ability to do something [*count*] It's an old story, but it still has the *power* to frighten children. ▪ You have the *power* to change your life. ▪ I'll do everything ***within/in my power*** to help. [=I'll do everything that I can to help] ▪ It's ***in your power*** [=you have the ability] to change the way things are done here. — often + *of* ▪ He's studying the healing *powers of* various plants. ▪ She lost the *power of* speech. [=she was no longer able to speak] ▪ Some things are beyond the *power of* human understanding. ▪ He used all of his *powers of* persuasion, but she still would not agree. [*noncount*] Each member of the club has equal voting *power*. ▪ The new computer is tiny but has more computing *power* than many desktop computers. ▪ His position gives him great bargaining *power*. — see also BUYING POWER, PURCHASING POWER, STAYING POWER **b** [*noncount*] **:** the ability to influence or affect people or things ▪ It was a speech of great *power*. ▪ A good lawyer is able to argue with *power* and conviction. — often + *of* ▪ the *power of* art/love/religion/television ▪ Great poetry reminds us of the *power of* language. — see also DRAWING POWER, PULLING POWER

6 : the right to do something **:** legal or official authority to do something [*count*] You have the *power* to decide whether or not you'll agree to do it. ▪ The President has the *power* to veto laws passed by Congress. [*noncount*] The board of directors has given her *power* to negotiate the contract. — see also POWER OF ATTORNEY

7 [*noncount*] **a :** energy that can be collected and used to operate machines ▪ electrical/nuclear/solar/wind/battery *power* ▪ The car's engine yields more *power* while using less fuel. — see also HORSEPOWER, MANPOWER **b :** the electricity that people use ▪ We lost *power* during the storm. ▪ Do you know how many watts of *power* your refrigerator uses per day?

8 [*count*] *mathematics* **a :** the number of times that a number is to be multiplied by itself ▪ 5 (raised) to the third *power* is 125. [=5 x 5 x 5 = 125] **b :** a number that results from multiplying a number by itself ▪ 8 is a *power* of 2 because 2 x 2 x 2 is equal to 8.

9 [*noncount*] *technical* **:** the ability of an optical device (such as a telescope) to make objects look bigger ▪ the *power* [=*magnification*] of a microscope/telescope ▪ a telescope of high *power*

do (someone) a power of good *Brit, informal + old-fashioned* **:** to help someone physically or mentally **:** to make someone feel better ▪ I think spending a day outside in the sunshine would *do you a power of good.* [=(*US*) *do you a world of good*]

more power to you (*US*) *or Brit* ***more power to your elbow*** *informal* — used to say that you approve of what someone is doing and hope it will be successful ▪ If he wants to write a book, *more power to him*!

the corridors/halls of power **:** places where people talk about issues and make important decisions especially about political matters ▪ *the corridors of power* in Washington, D.C.

the power behind the throne **:** the person who secretly controls a country, organization, etc., by controlling the actions and decisions of the official leader ▪ He's the company president, but his assistant is *the (real) power behind the throne.*

the powers that be **:** the people who decide what is allowed or acceptable in a group, organization, etc. ▪ The students wanted to have a big party, but *the powers that be* didn't approve. ▪ I applied for the job, but I guess *the powers that be* didn't think I was qualified.

synonyms POWER, AUTHORITY, JURISDICTION, COMMAND, and DOMINION mean the right or ability to govern, rule, or strongly influence people or situations. POWER is a general word that suggests the ability to control or influence what is done, felt, etc. ▪ the *power* of the throne ▪ the *power* to appoint judges ▪ The movie has the *power* to shape public opinion. AUTHORITY suggests power that has been given to someone for a specific purpose and that has certain limits. ▪ She gave her nephew the *authority* to manage the estate on her behalf. JURISDICTION refers to official, legal power that has certain limits. ▪ This matter is outside the court's *jurisdiction.* COMMAND refers to the power that someone (such as a military officer) has to make decisions and to force people to behave in a desired way. ▪ He was given *command* of the regiment. DOMINION is a formal word that stresses the greatest or highest power or authority. ▪ The country no longer has *dominion* over the island.

²power *verb* **-ers; -ered; -er•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **:** to supply (something) with power — usually used as *(be) powered* ▪ The entire village *is powered* by wind. — see also POWERED

2 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* **:** to move with great speed or force [*no obj*] The running back *powered* through the defensive line. — often used figuratively ▪ The band *powered* through a number of new songs before playing some of their classics. [+ *obj*] He *powered* the ball past the goalie. ▪ She ***powered her way*** to the finish line.

power up [*phrasal verb*] ***power up (something)*** *or* ***power (something) up*** **:** to make (a machine) ready for use by supplying it with electricity ▪ I *powered up* [=*started up, turned on*] the computer.

³power *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : of or relating to electrical power ▪ a *power* supply/source/failure/outage ▪ Someone from the *power* [=*electric*] company called. ▪ *Power* lines [=wires that carry electricity] run along the west side of the street.

2 : operated by using electricity rather than a person's strength ▪ a *power* drill/saw ▪ *power* tools ▪ The car comes equipped with *power* windows.

3 : having great strength or power ▪ a *power* running back ▪ a *power* pitcher

4 a : involving important people who meet to discuss business or political affairs ▪ a *power* breakfast/lunch **b** *of clothing* **:** having a formal or impressive quality that is meant to make you look powerful and important ▪ a *power* suit ▪ (*US*) He was wearing a red *power* tie.

power–assisted steering *noun* [*noncount*] **:** POWER STEERING

power base *noun, pl* **~ bases** [*count*] **:** the area or group of people that provides the main support for a particular political candidate ▪ Both candidates are doing whatever they can to raise money from their *power bases.* ▪ Most of her *power base* is in the city.

pow•er•boat /ˈpawəˌboʊt/ *noun, pl* **-boats** [*count*] **:** MOTORBOAT; *especially* **:** SPEEDBOAT

power broker *noun, pl* **~ -kers** [*count*] **:** a person who has a lot of influence and control in a particular activity (such as politics)

power cut *noun, pl* **~ cuts** [*count*] *Brit* **:** OUTAGE

pow•ered /ˈpawəd/ *adj* **:** operated by a specified kind of power ▪ electrically *powered* vehicles — usually used in combination ▪ nuclear-*powered* submarines ▪ a battery-*powered* motor — see also HIGH-POWERED

power forward *noun, pl* **~ -wards** [*count*] *basketball* **:** a forward whose size and strength are used mainly to control play near the basket

pow•er•ful /ˈpawəfəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : having the ability to control or influence people or things ▪ rich and *powerful* people ▪ a *powerful* ally ▪ The country is becoming more and more *powerful.*

2 : having a strong effect on someone or something ▪ *powerful* drugs that attack cancer cells ▪ The cash bonus provides a *powerful* incentive to workers. ▪ *powerful* emotions/images ▪ The perfume has a *powerful* smell. ▪ It's a very *powerful* movie. ▪ He gave a *powerful* [=*moving*] speech. ▪ a *powerful* [=*convincing, compelling*] argument

3 : having or producing a lot of physical strength or force ▪ *powerful* magnets ▪ a *powerful* machine/motor/force ▪ The dog has a *powerful* body. ▪ She has a *powerful* voice. ▪ The weapons are very *powerful.* ▪ The aardvark uses its *powerful* claws to dig for food.

4 : capable of doing many things in a fast and efficient way ▪ His new computer is more *powerful* than the one I have.

the powerful **:** powerful people ▪ the weak and *the powerful*

– pow•er•ful•ly *adv* ▪ a *powerfully* built man [=a man with a body that looks very strong] ▪ a *powerfully* written speech/book

pow•er•house /ˈpawəˌhaʊs/ *noun, pl* **-hous•es** [*count*]

1 : a group of people or an organization that has a lot of power ▪ The country is an economic *powerhouse.* ▪ Their company became a *powerhouse* in the video game industry.

2 : a person, team, etc., that has a lot of energy, strength, and skill ▪ an intellectual *powerhouse* ▪ She's a *powerhouse* on the tennis court. ▪ This year's team is a *powerhouse* that's winning its games easily. ▪ a *powerhouse* gymnast
3 *chiefly US* : someone or something that is full *of* a particular thing ▪ Seaweed is a *powerhouse of* vitamins and minerals. ▪ He is a *powerhouse of* ideas.

pow•er•less /'pawələs/ *adj* : having no power : unable to do something or to stop something ▪ *powerless* victims ▪ She felt *powerless* [=*helpless*] lying in the hospital bed. — often + *against* ▪ He felt *powerless against* the rumors that people were spreading about him. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ Studies show that people are not *powerless to prevent* heart disease.
– **pow•er•less•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

power of attorney *noun, pl* **powers of attorney** *law*
1 [*count, noncount*] : the right to act and make decisions for another person in business and legal matters ▪ Mrs. Flagg gave her son (a) *power of attorney* over all her accounts when she entered the nursing home.
2 [*count*] : a document that gives someone the right of power of attorney

power pack *noun, pl* ~ **packs** [*count*] : a small case that contains the power supply for an electronic device

power plant *noun, pl* ~ **plants** [*count*] *US* : a building or group of buildings in which electricity for a large area is produced — called also *power station*

power play *noun, pl* ~ **plays** [*count*] *US*
1 *ice hockey* : a situation in which one team has more players on the ice than the other team for a period of time because of a penalty ▪ They scored their first goal on a *power play*.
2 : an attempt by a person, group, or organization to use power in a forceful and direct way to get or do something ▪ He made a *power play* to seize control of the company.

power point *noun, pl* ~ **points** [*count*] *Brit* : OUTLET 4

power politics *noun* [*noncount*] : politics based on the use of military or economic power to influence the actions and decisions of other governments

power steering *noun* [*noncount*] : a steering system in cars that uses power from the engine to make it easier to turn the steering wheel — called also *power-assisted steering*

power strip *noun, pl* ~ **strips** [*count*] *US* : an electrical device that has a series of outlets attached to a cord with a plug on one end — see picture at COMPUTER

power structure *noun, pl* ~ **-tures** [*count*] *US* : a group of people who have control of a government, organization, etc., or the way in which those people are organized ▪ The parade won't happen without the approval of the city's *power structure*. ▪ Women in the company are struggling for equality against the male *power structure*. ▪ They are making changes to the *power structure* of the church/university.

power trip *noun, pl* ~ **trips** [*count*] : an activity or way of behaving that makes a person feel powerful : something that a person does for the pleasure of using power to control other people ▪ She's been ***on a power trip*** since she was promoted to manager.

power walk *verb* ~ **walks**; ~ **walked**; ~ **walking** [*no obj*] : to walk quickly for exercise especially while carrying or wearing weights
– **power walking** *noun* [*noncount*]

pow•wow /'paʊˌwaʊ/ *noun, pl* **-wows** [*count*]
1 : a social gathering of Native Americans that usually includes dancing
2 *informal* : a meeting for people to discuss something ▪ We'll talk about vacation plans at the family *powwow*.

pox /'pɑ:ks/ *noun*
1 [*singular*] : a disease that causes a rash on the skin — see also CHICKEN POX
2 [*noncount*] *old-fashioned* **a** : SYPHILIS **b** : SMALLPOX
3 [*singular*] *old-fashioned* + *humorous* — used to say that you hope something bad will happen to someone or something ▪ ***A pox on*** all who don't believe me!

poxy /'pɑ:ksi/ *adj, always used before a noun, Brit slang* : not important : having little value ▪ a *poxy* job

pp *abbr* **1** ***pp.*** pages ▪ The article is on *pp.* 22–27. **2** per person ▪ The tickets are $55 *pp*. **3** *Brit* by proxy ✧ This abbreviation is used before a person's name on a document to show that the signature is not of that person but of a person who has signed the document with the other person's permission. **4** pianissimo

PPO /ˌpi:ˌpi:'oʊ/ *noun, pl* **PPOs** [*count*] *US* : an organization that provides health care to people at a lower cost if they use the doctors, hospitals, etc., that belong to the organization ▪ I'm not sure if that doctor belongs to my *PPO*. ✧ *PPO* is an abbreviation of "preferred provider organization." — compare HMO

PPS *abbr* an additional postscript — used before a second note that is added to the end of a letter after the writer has signed it; compare PS

[1]PR /'pi:'ɑɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : PUBLIC RELATIONS ▪ a job in *PR* — often used before another noun ▪ a *PR* agency/firm/representative

[2]PR *abbr* **1** proportional representation **2** Puerto Rico

prac•ti•ca•ble /'præktɪkəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : able to be done or used ▪ There's no *practicable* [=*feasible*] way to do the experiment with the current technology. ▪ The idea is interesting but not *practicable*, I'm afraid. ▪ Someday it may be *practicable* [=*possible*] to efficiently use waste as fuel.
– **prac•ti•ca•bil•i•ty** /ˌpræktɪkə'bɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ To be honest, I doubt the *practicability* of the idea. – **prac•ti•ca•bly** /'præktɪkəbli/ *adv*

[1]prac•ti•cal /'præktɪkəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : relating to what is real rather than to what is possible or imagined ▪ We can speculate about the future, but on a more *practical* level, we have to admit that we simply don't know what will happen. ▪ An engineer will address the design's *practical* problems. ▪ She has a lot of *practical* experience in dealing with these kinds of problems. ▪ The *practical* [=*actual*] effect of the change has been very slight. — opposite THEORETICAL
2 a : likely to succeed and reasonable to do or use ▪ The books suggests some *practical* ways to save money. ▪ *practical* solutions to complicated problems ▪ He thinks wind can be a *practical* source of renewable energy. **b** : appropriate or suited for actual use ▪ The machine is too big to be *practical* for most private homes. ▪ The shoes are nice, but they're not very *practical*. **c** : relating to what can or should be done in an actual situation ▪ The book is a *practical* guide to car care. ▪ He gave me some *practical* advice/help on finding a job. ▪ One of the *practical* advantages of living in the city is that you have access to public transportation. ▪ I have enough *practical* knowledge of German to get by. **d** : logical and reasonable in a particular situation ▪ We could try to continue, but it's more *practical* to start over. ▪ We left early for *practical* reasons—there's less traffic then and it's cooler.
3 *of a person* **a** : tending to make good decisions and to deal with daily life in a sensible way ▪ He is a very *practical* person with no interest in expensive cars or clothes. ▪ Try to be more *practical* about money. **b** : good at making or repairing things ▪ My husband is not very *practical* around the house.
for (all) practical purposes — used to say that one thing has the same effect or result as something else ▪ His effort to hide the document was, *for practical purposes* [=*in effect*], an admission that he had made a mistake. ▪ During the blizzard, the town was, *for all practical purposes* [=*virtually, practically*], shut down.

[2]practical *noun, pl* **-cals** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : an examination in which students have to do or make something to show what they have learned ▪ We have our zoology *practicals* next week.

prac•ti•cal•i•ty /ˌpræktɪ'kæləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**
1 [*noncount*] : the quality of being likely to succeed and reasonable to do or use ▪ Panelists will debate the *practicality* of wind as a source of renewable energy.
2 [*noncount*] : the quality of being appropriate or suited for actual use ▪ The size of the machine makes me doubt its *practicality* [=*suitability*] for use in the home. ▪ I know you like the dressy shoes better than the sneakers, but I think you should choose based on *practicality*, not style.
3 [*noncount*] : the quality of being sensible in making decisions and dealing with the problems of daily life ▪ His optimism and *practicality* make him a skilled businessman.
4 ***practicalities*** [*plural*] : the facts about something : the real things that have to be done or dealt with in a particular situation — usually + *of* ▪ New teachers often find the *practicalities* [=*realities*] *of* teaching very different from the theories they learned in college.

practical joke *noun, pl* ~ **jokes** [*count*] : a joke involving something that is done rather than said : a trick played on someone ▪ One of the children filled the sugar bowl with salt as a *practical joke*.
– **practical joker** *noun, pl* ~ **-kers** [*count*]

prac·ti·cal·ly /ˈpræktɪkli/ *adv*
1 : almost or nearly ▪ *Practically* [=*virtually*] everyone went to the game. ▪ The room's ceiling was so low that we *practically* had to crawl. ▪ I talk to him *practically* everyday. ▪ The project is *practically* complete. ▪ Football is *practically* a religion in some places.
2 [*more ~; most ~*] **:** in a way that is reasonable or logical **:** in a practical way ▪ We need to discuss the issue *practically* [=*sensibly*] before we make any decisions. ▪ *Practically* speaking, Alaska is too far to go for just a few days.

practical nurse *noun, pl ~* **nurses** [*count*] *US* **:** a nurse who cares for sick people but does not have as much training or experience as a registered nurse — compare REGISTERED NURSE; see also LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

[1]prac·tice (*US*) *or Brit* **prac·tise** /ˈpræktəs/ *verb* **-tic·es; -ticed; -tic·ing**
1 : to do something again and again in order to become better at it [*no obj*] To be a good musician, you have to *practice* a lot. [+ *obj*] Have you been *practicing* your lines for the play? ▪ She had to *practice* flying in various weather conditions before she could get her pilot's license.
2 [+ *obj*] **:** to do (something) regularly or constantly as an ordinary part of your life ▪ He *practices* yoga daily. ▪ The monks *practice* celibacy. ▪ Grandmother taught us to *practice* good manners. ▪ ***Practice what you preach***—don't smoke if you tell your children not to smoke.
3 [+ *obj*] **:** to live according to the customs and teachings of (a religion) ▪ Their family *practices* Buddhism. ▪ a *practicing* Catholic
4 : to have a professional medical or legal business [+ *obj*] My cousin plans to *practice* medicine/law/dentistry. [=plans to be a doctor/lawyer/dentist] [*no obj*] There are thousands of lawyers *practicing* in this city. ▪ a *practicing* physician

[2]practice *noun, pl* **-tices**
1 a [*noncount*] **:** the activity of doing something again and again in order to become better at it ▪ Being a good musician takes a lot of *practice*. ▪ I'm sure you'll learn your lines for the play with enough *practice*. ▪ They'll get better with *practice*. ▪ If you want to be a good musician, you have to stay ***in practice*** [=you have to practice enough to improve and keep your skills] ▪ I used to be pretty good at playing the piano, but I'm ***out of practice*** now. [=I haven't practiced so my skills are not as good as they were] ▪ If you want to be a good writer, you should write every day. Remember, ***practice makes perfect*** [=you become better at something if you practice it often] **b :** a regular occasion at which you practice something [*noncount*] I'm late for trumpet/ballet/soccer *practice*. ▪ The marching band has/holds *practice* every Wednesday afternoon. [*count*] The team's *practices* usually last two hours. — often used before another noun ▪ The team was on the *practice* field at dawn. ▪ a *practice* session
2 : something that is done often or regularly [*count*] She has made a *practice* of volunteering at a homeless shelter one weekend a month. ▪ It is his *practice* [=*habit*] to read the newspaper each morning. ▪ The company has been accused of unfair labor *practices*. [=of treating its workers unfairly] ▪ The country's poor sanitation *practices* have led to widespread disease. ▪ Burial *practices* vary around the world. [*noncount*] It is common *practice* among my friends to not use capital letters in e-mail. ▪ It's ***good practice*** [=it is wise; it is a good idea] to always carry a few dollars in cash. ▪ Letting the car get/run very low on fuel is ***bad practice***. [=is a bad/unwise thing to do]
3 [*noncount*] **:** the action of doing or using something ▪ the theory and *practice* of teaching ▪ the *practice* of law/medicine ▪ Her advice is good, but it's hard to ***put into practice***. [=to use it in actual situations] ▪ He worked on a farm during the summer to *put* his knowledge of agriculture *into practice*.
4 [*count*] **:** a professional medical or legal business ▪ a pharmacist's *practice* ▪ Her law *practice* is in the downtown area. — see also FAMILY PRACTICE, GROUP PRACTICE, PRIVATE PRACTICE
in practice — used to say what is actually done or what the actual effect or result of something is ▪ The software is designed to block pornographic Web sites, but *in practice* [=*in reality*], it blocks many other sites as well. ▪ *In* actual *practice*, people sometimes forget to take their medication.

practiced (*US*) *or Brit* **practised** *adj*
1 : good at doing something because you have done it many times ▪ a *practiced* chef ▪ Only a few of the dancers are *practiced* in traditional ballet. ▪ The diamonds may look identical to you and me, but to a ***practiced eye*** [=someone who has a lot of knowledge and experience with diamonds], one is obviously a fake.
2 *always used before a noun* **:** learned by doing something again and again ▪ He split the log with *practiced* skill.

prac·ti·cum /ˈpræktɪkəm/ *noun, pl* **-cums** [*count*] *US* **:** a course of study for teachers, doctors, nurses, etc., that involves actually working in the area of study and using the knowledge and skills that have been learned in a school

prac·ti·tion·er /prækˈtɪʃənɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *formal*
1 : a person who works in a professional medical or legal business ▪ a health *practitioner* ▪ legal *practitioners* — see also FAMILY PRACTITIONER, GENERAL PRACTITIONER, MEDICAL PRACTITIONER, NURSE PRACTITIONER
2 : a person who regularly does an activity that requires skill or practice ▪ yoga *practitioners* — often + *of* ▪ *practitioners of* the art of glassblowing

prag·mat·ic /prægˈmætɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* **:** dealing with the problems that exist in a specific situation in a reasonable and logical way instead of depending on ideas and theories ▪ a *pragmatic* [=*practical*] approach to health care ▪ His *pragmatic* view of public education comes from years of working in city schools. ▪ a *pragmatic* leader
– prag·mat·i·cal·ly /prægˈmætɪkli/ *adv* ▪ She approaches problems *pragmatically*.

prag·mat·ics /prægˈmætɪks/ *noun* [*noncount*] *linguistics* **:** the study of what words mean in particular situations

prag·ma·tism /ˈprægməˌtɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* **:** a reasonable and logical way of doing things or of thinking about problems that is based on dealing with specific situations instead of on ideas and theories ▪ The right person for the job will balance vision with *pragmatism*.
– prag·ma·tist /ˈprægmətɪst/ *noun, pl* **-tists** [*count*]

prai·rie /ˈpreri/ *noun, pl* **-ries :** a large, mostly flat area of land in North America that has few trees and is covered in grasses [*count*] Millions of buffalo once roamed the *prairies*. [*noncount*] The train tracks extend over miles of *prairie*. — often used before another noun ▪ *prairie* grasses/flowers

prairie dog *noun, pl ~* **dogs** [*count*] **:** a small animal that lives on the prairies of the central and western U.S. — see picture at RODENT

[1]praise /preɪz/ *verb* **prais·es; praised; prais·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to say or write good things about (someone or something) **:** to express approval of (someone or something) ▪ Critics *praised* her as both an actor and director. ▪ He *praised* her cooking. ▪ A good teacher *praises* students when they do well. ▪ His poems *praise* nature. — opposite CRITICIZE
2 : to express thanks to or love and respect for (God) ▪ We *praise* God for your safe arrival. ▪ *Praise* Allah that you are safe! [=I thank Allah that you are safe] ▪ People gather in churches to *praise* the Lord.
praise (someone or something) to the skies **:** to praise someone or something very much ▪ Critics have *praised* the play *to the skies*.

[2]praise *noun, pl* **praises**
1 : spoken or written words about the good qualities of someone or something **:** an expression of approval for someone or something [*noncount*] He deserves *praise* for the way he's handled this crisis. ▪ He won critical *praise* [=*acclaim*] for his performance. ▪ "Good job" is ***high praise*** coming from her. She rarely compliments anyone's work. ▪ I have ***nothing but praise*** for the hospital staff. ▪ The poem is ***in praise of*** nature. [=the poem praises nature] [*plural*] The critics ***heaped praises on*** her performance. = The critics ***sang the praises of*** her performance. = The critics ***sang her praises***. [=the critics praised her performance in a very enthusiastic way]
2 : an expression of thanks to or love and respect for God [*plural*] People gathered in the church to sing *praises* to the Lord. [*noncount*] hymns/songs of *praise* ▪ You made it here safely. ***Praise be to God!*** [=thank God] ▪ We were not, ***praise be*** [=*thankfully*], required to join hands and sing songs.
damn with faint praise see [2]DAMN

praise·wor·thy /ˈpreɪzˌwɚði/ *adj* **:** deserving praise **:** worthy of praise ▪ *praiseworthy* efforts to develop an AIDS vaccine

pra·line /ˈpraːˌliːn/ *noun, pl* **-lines** [*count, noncount*] **:** a candy made of nuts and boiled sugar

pram /ˈpræm/ *noun, pl* **prams** [*count*] *Brit* **:** BABY CARRIAGE

prance /ˈpræns/ *verb* **pranc·es; pranced; pranc·ing** [*no obj*]
1 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* **:** to walk or

move in a lively and proud way ▪ The singer *pranced* around on stage. ▪ The little boy *pranced* across the room in his cowboy costume.

2 *of a horse* : to move by taking high steps : to lift each hoof up high when moving

prang /ˈpræŋ/ *verb* **prangs**; **pranged**; **prang•ing** [+ *obj*] *Brit, informal* : to damage (a vehicle) in an accident ▪ She *pranged* her car.

– **prang** *noun, pl* **prangs** [*count*] ▪ a minor *prang* [=*accident*] in a car park

prank /ˈpræŋk/ *noun, pl* **pranks** [*count*] : a trick that is done to someone usually as a joke ▪ a childish *prank* ▪ He enjoys playing *pranks* on his friends. ▪ (*US*) He's always ***pulling pranks***.

prank•ster /ˈpræŋkstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sters** [*count*] : a person who plays pranks on other people

prat /ˈpræt/ *noun, pl* **prats** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : a stupid or foolish person ▪ He acts like a real *prat* sometimes.

prate /ˈpreɪt/ *verb* **prates**; **prat•ed**; **prat•ing** [*no obj*] : to talk for a very long about something that is not very important or interesting ▪ She kept *prating* (on) about what she did over the weekend.

prat•fall /ˈpræt͵fɑːl/ *noun, pl* **-falls** [*count*]

1 : a sudden fall in which you end up sitting on the ground ▪ He slipped and took a *pratfall* into the mud.

2 : an embarrassing mistake or accident ▪ a politician who's known for his verbal *pratfalls* [=*blunders*]

prat•tle /ˈprætl/ *verb* **prattles**; **prattled**; **prattling** [*no obj*] : to talk for very long about something that is not important or interesting ▪ They *prattled* on into the night, discussing school, music, and friends.

– **prattle** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ I was tired of listening to their *prattle*.

prawn /ˈprɑːn/ *noun, pl* **prawns** [*count*]

1 a *US* : a large shrimp **b** *Brit* : SHRIMP

2 : a small lobster with long, slender claws

pray /ˈpreɪ/ *verb* **prays**; **prayed**; **pray•ing**

1 a : to speak to God especially in order to give thanks or to ask for something [*no obj*] *praying* to God/Allah daily ▪ There's little else to do now but hope and *pray*. ▪ The minister said, "***Let us pray***." — often + *for* ▪ We *prayed* (to God) *for* their safe return. ▪ *pray for* forgiveness [+ *obj*] The family *prayed* (to God) that she wouldn't need surgery. ▪ He *prayed* that they would have the strength to go on. **b** : to hope or wish very much for something to happen [*no obj*] — usually + *for* ▪ She's *praying* [=*hoping*] *for* a chance to play in the game. [+ *obj*] He *prayed* that he would find a parking spot.

2 [+ *obj*] *old-fashioned* : to seriously ask (someone) to do something ▪ I *pray* [=*beg*] you, tell me where they went. ▪ I *pray* you be careful. [=please be careful] — used to introduce a question or request in a polite or deliberately old-fashioned way ▪ *Pray* be careful. ▪ *Pray* [=*please*] tell me what to do. ▪ Why should I trust them, ***pray tell***? [=tell me why I should trust them; I do not think that they should be trusted]

prayer /ˈpreɚ/ *noun, pl* **prayers**

1 [*count*] **a** : words spoken to God especially in order to give thanks or to ask for something ▪ Father said a *prayer*, and then we began to eat. ▪ She told the children to say their *prayers* before they went to sleep. ▪ We've been praying for her safe return, and now our ***prayers have been answered***. = We've been praying for her safe return, and now God has ***answered our prayers***. [=she has returned safely] — often + *for* ▪ a *prayer for* peace ▪ I'm very nervous about the surgery. Will you say a *prayer for* me? **b** : a fixed set of words that are spoken to God ▪ a *prayer* of thanksgiving ▪ We joined hands and recited the *prayer* together. ▪ a book of hymns and *prayers* — see also LORD'S PRAYER

2 [*noncount*] : the act of speaking to God : the act of praying ▪ The people were kneeling in *prayer*. ▪ a moment of silent *prayer*

3 [*count*] : a strong hope or wish ▪ It's our *prayer* that peace will come to the region soon. ▪ The house seemed like the ***answer to all my prayers***. [=the house had everything that I hoped for]

4 *prayers* [*plural*] : a meeting at which people pray together ▪ Refreshments will be served following morning *prayers*.

5 [*singular*] *informal* : a slight chance of doing or getting something — usually used in negative statements ▪ No one thought the team had a *prayer* (of winning). ▪ "Do you think he'll get the job." "No. He doesn't have a *prayer*."

on a wing and a prayer see ¹WING

prayer book *noun, pl* ~ **books** [*count*] : a book that contains prayers and other writings used in church services

prayer•ful /ˈpreɚfəl/ *adj, formal*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : tending to pray often : DEVOUT ▪ a *prayerful* man

2 : involving prayer ▪ They gave their *prayerful* support to the victims of the tragedy.

– **prayer•ful•ly** *adv*

prayer rug *noun, pl* ~ **rugs** [*count*] : a small rug that Muslims kneel on when they pray — called also *prayer mat*

prayer shawl *noun, pl* ~ **shawls** [*count*] : a shawl that is worn over the head or shoulders by Jewish men especially during morning prayers

prayer wheel *noun, pl* ~ **wheels** [*count*] : a round container that is filled with prayers written on paper and that turns on a tall pole ✧ Prayer wheels are used by Tibetan Buddhists.

praying mantis *noun, pl* ~ **mantises** [*count*] : a large insect that eats other insects by holding them in its raised front legs — called also *mantis*; see color picture on page C10

pre- /priː/ *prefix*

1 : earlier than : before ▪ *pre*historic ▪ *pre*season

2 : in advance ▪ *pre*pay

preach /ˈpriːʧ/ *verb* **preach•es**; **preached**; **preach•ing**

1 : to make a speech about religion in a church or other public place : to deliver a sermon [*no obj*] Have you ever heard that minister *preach*? ▪ The minister *preached* to the congregation about/on the need for tolerance. [+ *obj*] His followers listened to him *preach* the gospel. ▪ The priest *preached* a regular sermon that Sunday.

2 : to write or speak about (something) in an approving way : to say that (something) is good or necessary [+ *obj*] Some people have begun to complain about the project delays, but the mayor continues to *preach* patience. [=to say that people should be patient] ▪ Although he once *preached* revolution [=said that there should be a revolution], he now claims to be a man of peace. ▪ Their mother has always *preached* the value/virtues of a good education. ▪ ***Practice what you preach***— don't smoke if you tell your children not to smoke. [*no obj*] The mayor continues to *preach* about the need for patience.

3 [*no obj*] : to write or speak in an annoying way about the right way to behave ▪ It's important to give teenagers helpful advice without *preaching* (to/at them). ▪ I don't like being *preached* at/to about how I should live my life.

preach to the choir (*chiefly US*) *or* ***preach to the converted*** : to speak for or against something to people who already agree with your opinions ▪ The speeches he makes to his supporters won't win him any more votes. He's just *preaching to the choir*.

preach•er /ˈpriːʧɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who speaks publicly about religious subjects in a Christian church or other public place

preachy /ˈpriːʧi/ *adj* **preach•i•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *informal + disapproving* : trying to teach something (such as proper or moral behavior) in a way that is annoying or unwanted ▪ We were put off by the speaker's *preachy* tone. ▪ a boring and *preachy* writer

pre•ad•o•les•cent /ˌpriːˌædəˈlɛsn̩t/ *adj* : of or relating to the period of life before a child begins to develop into an adult : of or relating to the period of life before adolescence ▪ *preadolescent* boys/girls ▪ my *preadolescent* interests

– **pre•ad•o•les•cence** /ˌpriːˌædəˈlɛsn̩s/ *noun* [*noncount*]

– **preadolescent** *noun, pl* **-scents** [*count*] ▪ Is this movie appropriate for *preadolescents*?

pre•am•ble /ˈpriːˌæmbəl/ *noun, pl* **-am•bles** *somewhat formal*

1 : a statement that is made at the beginning of something (such as a legal document) and usually gives the reasons for the parts that follow [*count*] The *preamble* to the U.S. Constitution begins by saying "We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, . . ." [*noncount*] He told us the news ***without preamble***. [=without saying anything else first]

2 [*count*] : something that comes before and leads to something else ▪ His early travels were just a *preamble* to his later adventures.

pre•ap•prove /ˌpriːəˈpruːv/ *verb* **-proves**; **-proved**; **-prov•ing** [+ *obj*] : to say that you will say yes to (someone or something) when a final or official request is made : to approve (someone or something) in advance ▪ The bank has *preapproved* our loan. = The bank has *preapproved* us for a loan. = We've been/gotten *preapproved* for a loan.

– **pre•ap•prov•al** /ˌpriːəˈpruːvəl/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **pre-**

approved *adj* ▪ Participants in the program can purchase certain *preapproved* medications at a discounted price.

pre•ar•range /ˌpri:jəˈreɪnʤ/ *verb* **-rang•es**; **-ranged**; **-rang•ing** [+ *obj*] : to plan or decide (something) before it happens : to arrange (something) in advance ▪ The details of the ceremony were carefully *prearranged*.
– **prearranged** *adj* ▪ They met at a *prearranged* time and place. ▪ a *prearranged* meeting – **pre•ar•range•ment** /ˌpri:jəˈreɪnʤmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*noncount*] They met by *prearrangement* at the restaurant. [*count*] There's no need to make *prearrangements*.

pre•cal•cu•lus /ˌpri:ˈkælkjələs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : an introductory course that prepares students for the study of calculus ▪ She is taking *precalculus* this semester.
– **precalculus** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *precalculus* course ▪ *precalculus* students

pre•can•cer•ous /ˌpri:ˈkænsərəs/ *adj, medical* : likely to become cancerous ▪ a *precancerous* growth/lesion

pre•car•i•ous /prɪˈkerijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not safe, strong, or steady ▪ He earned a *precarious* livelihood/living by gambling. ▪ She was in a state of *precarious* [=*delicate*] health. ▪ The government is in a *precarious* position. [=a dangerous position that must be dealt with carefully] ▪ The strong wind almost knocked him off of his *precarious* perch on the edge of the cliff.
– **pre•car•i•ous•ly** *adv* ▪ The vase was placed *precariously* close to the edge of the table. – **pre•car•i•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

pre•cast /ˌpri:ˈkæst, *Brit* ˌpri:ˈkɑ:st/ *adj, technical* : made into shapes that are ready to be used to build something ▪ The wall is built with *precast* concrete panels.

pre•cau•tion /prɪˈkɑ:ʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] : something that is done to prevent possible harm or trouble from happening in the future ▪ Be sure to follow the usual safety *precautions* when cooking outdoors. ▪ When driving, she always wears her seatbelt as a *precaution*. ▪ Every home owner should ***take precautions*** against fire. ▪ She *took the precaution* of packing extra medicine for the trip.
– **pre•cau•tion•ary** /prɪˈkɑ:ʃəˌneri, *Brit* prɪˈkɔ:ʃənri/ *adj* ▪ The beaches were closed as a *precautionary* measure.

pre•cede /prɪˈsi:d/ *verb* **-cedes**; **-ced•ed**; **-ced•ing** [+ *obj*] *somewhat formal*
1 : to happen, go, or come before (something or someone) ▪ Riots *preceded* the civil war. ▪ She *preceded* him into the room. ▪ The country became more conservative in the years that *preceded* his election. ▪ The new mayor is very different from the person who *preceded* her in office. ▪ The meeting was *preceded* by a brief welcoming speech. — see also PRECEDING
2 : to do or say something before (something) ▪ The chairman *preceded* the meeting with a brief welcoming speech.

pre•ce•dence /ˈpresədəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] *somewhat formal* : the condition of being more important than something or someone else and therefore coming or being dealt with first ▪ The guests were introduced in order of *precedence*. [=the most important guests were introduced first] ▪ The safety of the children ***has/takes precedence over*** [=is more important than] everything else. ▪ Many small businesses complain that the government's policies ***give precedence to*** large corporations. [=treat large corporations as more important]

prec•e•dent /ˈpresədənt/ *noun, pl* **-dents** *somewhat formal*
1 : a similar action or event that happened at an earlier time [*count*] There are no *precedents* for these events. [=nothing like these events has ever happened before] [*noncount*] There isn't any *precedent* for these events. = These events are ***without precedent***.
2 : something done or said that can be used as an example or rule to be followed in the future [*count*] The judge's ruling was based on a *precedent* established by an earlier decision. ▪ He says that the government will set/establish a dangerous *precedent* if it refuses to allow the protesters to hold a rally. [*noncount*] The judge's ruling was based/founded on legal *precedent*.
3 [*noncount*] : the usual or traditional way of doing something ▪ The voters ***broke (with) precedent*** [=they did something that had not been done before] when they elected a woman to the position.

pre•ced•ing /prɪˈsi:dɪŋ/ *adj* : existing, happening, or coming before : PREVIOUS ▪ The *preceding* week he had been on vacation. ▪ the *preceding* year ▪ the *preceding* chapter

pre•cept /ˈpri:ˌsept/ *noun, pl* **-cepts** *formal* : a rule that says how people should behave [*count*] the basic/moral *precepts* of a religion [*noncount*] I was taught by *precept* and by example.

pre•cinct /ˈpri:ˌsɪŋkt/ *noun, pl* **-cincts** [*count*]
1 *US* : any one of the sections that a town or city is divided into when people vote in an election ▪ an electoral *precinct*
2 *US* **a** : any one of the sections that a city is divided into for organizing the city's police forces ▪ a police *precinct* ▪ a *precinct* captain/station **b** : a police station of a precinct ▪ She was taken to the (police) *precinct* for questioning.
3 *Brit* : an area in a town or city where people may walk and vehicles are not allowed ▪ a pedestrian/shopping *precinct*
4 : the area that is near or around a place — usually plural; often + *of* ▪ within the *precincts of* the college — sometimes used figuratively ▪ the private *precincts of* the heart/mind

[1]pre•cious /ˈpreʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : rare and worth a lot of money ▪ diamonds and other *precious* stones ▪ *precious* jewels/jewelry ✧ A ***precious metal*** is an expensive metal (such as gold) that is used especially for jewelry. — see also SEMIPRECIOUS
2 : very valuable or important : too valuable or important to be wasted or used carelessly ▪ We can save *precious* time by taking this shortcut. ▪ They were able to be together for only a few *precious* hours/days. ▪ *precious* resources
3 : greatly loved, valued, or important ▪ *precious* memories ▪ the family's most *precious* moments ▪ a very *precious* [=*dear*] friend
4 *US, informal* : having a very pleasing and usually youthful appearance or quality : CUTE ▪ Aren't those children *precious*?
5 *formal + disapproving* : having a too careful, precise, or polite quality that seems false or annoying ▪ The sometimes *precious* writing makes the book difficult to read. ▪ *precious* manners
– **pre•cious•ly** *adv* ▪ a somewhat *preciously* written book ▪ We have *preciously* [=*precious*] little time left. – **pre•cious•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The *preciousness* of the writing annoys me.

[2]precious *adv* : very or extremely ▪ She had ***precious little*** to say. ▪ There are ***precious few*** hours of sunlight left.

prec•i•pice /ˈpresəpəs/ *noun, pl* **-pic•es** [*count*]
1 : a very steep side of a mountain or cliff ▪ He stood on the edge of the *precipice*.
2 : a point where danger, trouble, or difficulty begins — usually singular ▪ He is ***on the precipice of*** a midlife crisis. ▪ The company is now ***on the edge of a precipice***. [=the company is close to a very bad or dangerous situation]

[1]pre•cip•i•tate /prɪˈsɪpəˌteɪt/ *verb* **-tates**; **-tat•ed**; **-tat•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to cause (something) to happen quickly or suddenly ▪ Her death *precipitated* a family crisis. ▪ The budget problem was *precipitated* by many unexpected costs.
2 *technical* **a** [*no obj*] : to become separated from a liquid especially by a chemical process ▪ minerals that *precipitate* from seawater **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (something solid) to become separated from a liquid especially by a chemical process ▪ *precipitate* minerals from seawater
– **precipitating** *adj* ▪ *precipitating* events/factors [=events/factors that cause something to happen]

[2]pre•cip•i•tate /prɪˈsɪpətət/ *noun, pl* **-tates** [*count*] *technical* : a solid substance that is separated from a liquid especially by a chemical process

[3]pre•cip•i•tate /prɪˈsɪpətət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : happening very quickly or too quickly without enough thought or planning ▪ a *precipitate* [=*precipitous*] attack/decision
– **pre•cip•i•tate•ly** *adv* ▪ He says the police acted *precipitately* in making the arrest.

pre•cip•i•ta•tion /prɪˌsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*noncount*] : water that falls to the ground as rain, snow, etc. ▪ The weather forecast calls for some sort of frozen *precipitation* tomorrow—either snow or sleet. ▪ a 50 percent chance of *precipitation*
2 [*count, noncount*] *technical* : the process of separating a solid substance from a liquid ▪ Minerals are separated from the seawater by *precipitation*.

pre•cip•i•tous /prɪˈsɪpətəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal*
1 : very steep ▪ a *precipitous* slope
2 : happening in a very quick and sudden way ▪ There has been a *precipitous* decline/drop in home sales recently. ▪ People were shocked by his *precipitous* fall from political power.

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3 : done too quickly and without enough thought or planning ▪ a *precipitous* [=*precipitate*] action
– **pre•cip•i•tous•ly** *adv* ▪ The slope dropped away *precipitously*. ▪ Home sales are declining/dropping *precipitously*. – **pre•cip•i•tous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

pré•cis /preɪˈsi:/ *noun, pl* **pré•cis** /preɪˈsi:z/ [*count*] : a brief summary of the main points and ideas of a piece of writing or speech ▪ a *précis* of the book's plot
– **précis** *verb* **-cis•es** /preɪˈsi:z/; **-cised**; **-cis•ing** [+ *obj*] *Brit* ▪ She is skilled at *précising* complex theories.

pre•cise /prɪˈsaɪs/ *adj*
1 a [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very accurate and exact ▪ Be sure to take *precise* measurements before you cut the cloth. ▪ The dating of very old materials has become more *precise* with new instruments. ▪ a *precise* definition ▪ The word has a very *precise* meaning. ▪ Can you find a more *precise* term than "good" to describe the movie? ▪ Could you be a little more *precise* about what happened? **b** *always used before a noun* — used to refer to an exact and particular time, location, etc. ▪ She quietly closed the door to the baby's room, and at just that *precise* moment the phone began to ring.
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very careful and exact about the details of something ▪ She is very *precise* in her work.
to be precise — used to indicate that a statement is accurate and specific ▪ one night in early summer—June 22, *to be precise*
– **pre•cise•ly** *adv* ▪ It is *precisely* [=*exactly*] two o'clock. ▪ He knows *precisely* how much money he has. ▪ "Do you mean that the system is outdated?" "*Precisely*." = "Yes, that's *precisely* what I mean." ▪ The king was popular *precisely* because he was so kind and generous. ▪ I have a doctor's appointment this afternoon, or, ***more precisely***, at two o'clock this afternoon. – **pre•cise•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *preciseness* of the measurements ▪ She does her work with *preciseness*. [=*precision*]

[1]pre•ci•sion /prɪˈsɪʒən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the quality of being precise : exactness or accuracy ▪ I admire the *precision* of her work. — often used after *with* ▪ The work was done *with* surgical *precision*. [=was done in a very precise way] ▪ The cause of the fire cannot be determined ***with any (degree of) precision***.

[2]precision *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : designed for very accurate measurement or operation ▪ a *precision* instrument
2 : done in a very careful and exact way ▪ *precision* drilling ▪ The airplane made a *precision* approach for landing.

pre•clude /prɪˈklu:d/ *verb* **-cludes**; **-clud•ed**; **-clud•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*
1 : to make (something) impossible : to prevent (something) from happening ▪ She suffered an injury that *precluded* the possibility of an athletic career. ▪ Bad weather *precluded* any further attempts to reach the summit.
2 : to prevent (someone) from doing something — + *from* ▪ The injury *precluded* her *from* having an athletic career.

pre•co•cious /prɪˈkoʊʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *of a child* : having or showing the qualities or abilities of an adult at an unusually early age ▪ She was a *precocious* child who could read before she went to school. ▪ A *precocious* musician, he was giving concerts when he was seven.
– **pre•co•cious•ly** *adv* ▪ a *precociously* mature child – **pre•co•cious•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the child's *precociousness* – **pre•coc•i•ty** /prɪˈkɑ:səti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the child's *precocity*

pre•con•ceived /ˌpri:kənˈsi:vd/ *adj, always used before a noun* : formed before having actual knowledge about something or before experiencing something — often + *about* or *of* ▪ I didn't have any *preconceived* ideas/notions *about/of* what the job would be like when I first started.

pre•con•cep•tion /ˌpri:kənˈsɛpʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] : an idea or opinion that someone has before learning about or experiencing something directly ▪ I came to the lecture without any *preconceptions*. — often + *about* or *of* ▪ He's changing people's *preconceptions about/of* modern art.

pre•con•di•tion /ˌpri:kənˈdɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] : something that must exist or happen before something else can exist or happen ▪ An education is an essential/important/necessary *precondition* [=*prerequisite*] for getting a good job. ▪ They insist on a guarantee as a *precondition* of/to the deal.

pre•cook /ˌpri:ˈkʊk/ *verb* **-cooks**; **-cooked**; **-cook•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cook (food) partially or entirely at an earlier time ▪ He *precooked* the chicken before he grilled it. ▪ The pasta should be *precooked* and allowed to cool. ▪ *precooked* meals/meats

pre•cur•sor /prɪˈkɚsɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sors** [*count*] *somewhat formal* : something that comes before something else and that often leads to or influences its development — often + *of* or *to* ▪ Rhythm and blues was a *precursor of* rock music. ▪ Small tremors may be *precursors to* big earthquakes.

pre•date /ˌpri:ˈdeɪt/ *verb* **-dates**; **-dat•ed**; **-dat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to exist or happen at an earlier time than (something or someone) ▪ modes of transportation that *predate* the car ▪ the native people who *predated* European settlers in America — opposite POSTDATE

pre•da•tion /prɪˈdeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : the act of killing and eating other animals : the act of preying on other animals ▪ *predation* by lions

pred•a•tor /ˈprɛdətɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]
1 : an animal that lives by killing and eating other animals : an animal that preys on other animals ▪ *predators* like bears and wolves ▪ The population of rabbits is controlled by natural *predators*.
2 : a person who looks for other people in order to use, control, or harm them in some way ▪ a sexual *predator* [=a person who commits sexual crimes against other people] ▪ a corporate *predator* acquiring business rivals

pred•a•to•ry /ˈprɛdəˌtori, *Brit* ˈprɛdətri/ *adj*
1 *technical* : living by killing and eating other animals ▪ *predatory* animals/birds/insects
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : wrongly harming or using others for pleasure or profit ▪ *predatory* business practices ▪ *predatory* acts of sexual violence ▪ *predatory* men/women

pre•de•cease /ˌpri:dɪˈsi:s/ *verb* **-ceas•es**; **-ceased**; **-ceas•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to die before (someone) ▪ She was *predeceased* by her husband. [=her husband died before she did]

pre•de•ces•sor /ˈprɛdəˌsɛsɚ, *Brit* ˈpri:dəˌsɛsə/ *noun, pl* **-sors** [*count*]
1 : a person who had a job or position before someone else ▪ The company's new president has changed many of the policies that were introduced by his *predecessor*. [=by the previous president] — opposite SUCCESSOR
2 : something that comes before something else ▪ Today's computers are much faster than their *predecessors* were.

pre•des•ti•na•tion /ˌpri:ˌdɛstəˈneɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the belief that everything that will happen has already been decided by God or fate and cannot be changed

pre•des•tined /ˌpri:ˈdɛstənd/ *adj* : certain to do or be something or certain to happen ▪ He felt he was *predestined* [=*destined*] to marry her when they first met. ▪ The course of her life seemed to be *predestined*. ▪ a *predestined* outcome

pre•de•ter•mine /ˌpri:dəˈtɚmən/ *verb* **-mines**; **-mined**; **-min•ing** [+ *obj*] : to decide (something) before it happens or in advance ▪ The sex of the child is *predetermined* when the egg is fertilized.
– **predetermined** *adj* ▪ They were to meet at a *predetermined* time and place. [=a time and place that they had agreed on earlier]

pre•de•ter•min•er /ˌpri:dəˈtɚmənɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *grammar* : a word (such as "both" or "all") that comes before a determiner in a phrase ▪ In the phrase "for all their trouble," the word "their" is a determiner and the word "all" is a *predeterminer*.

pre•dic•a•ment /prɪˈdɪkəmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] : a difficult or unpleasant situation ▪ The governor has gotten himself into quite a *predicament*. ▪ I don't know how to get out of the *predicament* I'm in.

[1]pred•i•cate /ˈprɛdəˌkeɪt/ *verb* **-cates**; **-cat•ed**; **-cat•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to base (something) *on* or *upon* something else — usually used as *(be) predicated* ▪ His theory *is predicated on* faulty assumptions.

[2]pred•i•cate /ˈprɛdəkət/ *noun, pl* **-cates** [*count*] *grammar* : the part of a sentence that expresses what is said about the subject ▪ In the sentence "The child threw the ball," the subject is "the child" and the *predicate* is "threw the ball."

[3]pred•i•cate /ˈprɛdəkət/ *adj, always used before a noun, grammar* : used after a linking verb to describe a noun that comes before the verb ▪ In "the sun is hot," "hot" is a *predicate* adjective. — compare ATTRIBUTIVE

pred•i•ca•tive /ˈprɛdəkətɪv, *Brit* prɪˈdɪkətɪv/ *adj, grammar* : [3]PREDICATE ▪ a *predicative* adjective
– **pred•i•ca•tive•ly** *adv*

pre•dict /prɪˈdɪkt/ *verb* **-dicts**; **-dict•ed**; **-dict•ing** [+ *obj*]

: to say that (something) will or might happen in the future ▪ All the local forecasters are *predicting* rain for this afternoon. ▪ She claims that she can *predict* future events. ▪ It's hard to *predict* how the election will turn out. ▪ Many people *predicted* that the store would fail, but it has done very well. ▪ She won the election, as I *predicted* (she would). ▪ Sales are *predicted* to be the same as last year.

pre•dict•able /prɪ'dɪktəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : capable of being known before happening or being done ▪ The results of the study were completely *predictable*. [=the results were exactly what we guessed or expected they would be] ▪ They did their work at a steady and *predictable* rate. ▪ She writes novels with very *predictable* plots.
2 : behaving in a way that is expected ▪ I knew he would say that. He's so *predictable*.
– **pre•dict•abil•i•ty** /prɪˌdɪktə'bɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ We were disappointed by the *predictability* of the movie.
– **pre•dict•ably** /prɪ'dɪktəbli/ *adv* ▪ They work quickly and *predictably*. ▪ It was a *predictably* bad movie. [=it was not surprising that the movie was bad] ▪ *Predictably* [=as you would expect], he denied knowing anything about the scandal.

pre•dic•tion /prɪ'dɪkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*count*] : a statement about what will happen or might happen in the future ▪ Journalists have begun making *predictions* about the winner of the coming election. ▪ Despite *predictions* that the store would fail, it has done very well.
2 [*noncount*] : the act of saying what will happen in the future : the act of predicting something ▪ The figures and statistics are used for the *prediction* of future economic trends.

pre•dic•tive /prɪ'dɪktɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : making it possible to predict what will happen : useful in the prediction of something ▪ The test does not have much *predictive* value. ▪ High blood pressure is *predictive* of future heart problems.

pre•dic•tor /prɪ'dɪktɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] *formal* : something that shows whether or not something is likely to happen : something that is useful in the prediction of something — often + *of* ▪ High blood pressure can be a strong *predictor* [=*indicator*] *of* future heart problems.

pre•di•lec•tion /ˌprɛdə'lɛkʃən, *Brit* ˌpri:də'lɛkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *formal* : a natural liking for something : a tendency to do or to be attracted to something ▪ She followed her own *predilections*. [=she did the things she liked/wanted to do] — often + *for* ▪ They shared a *predilection for* adventure stories. ▪ He has a *predilection for* trouble. [=he often gets into trouble]

pre•dis•pose /ˌpri:dɪ'spoʊz/ *verb* **-pos•es**; **-posed**; **-pos•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to cause (someone) to be more likely to behave in a particular way or to be affected by a particular condition ▪ Past experiences have *predisposed* her to distrust people. ▪ Researchers have identified a gene that may *predispose* some people to (develop/developing) the disease. — often used as *(be) predisposed* ▪ Researchers have determined that some patients *are* genetically *predisposed* to (develop/developing) the disease. ▪ He believes that some people *are predisposed* to/toward criminal behavior.
– **pre•dis•po•si•tion** /ˌpri:ˌdɪspə'zɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] — usually singular ▪ He has a *predisposition* to be cynical. ▪ patients with a *predisposition* toward cancer [*noncount*] She is at risk for breast cancer because of genetic *predisposition*.

pre•dom•i•nance /prɪ'dɑ:mənənts/ *noun*
1 [*noncount*] : the state of being more powerful or important than other people or things ▪ a group of young reformers who have gained/won *predominance* within the government ▪ The tribe fought to maintain its *predominance*.
2 [*singular*] : a situation in which there is a greater number or amount of a particular type of person or thing than of other people or things — often + *of* ▪ There is a *predominance of* older people in the neighborhood. [=most of the people in the neighborhood are older]

pre•dom•i•nant /prɪ'dɑ:mənənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : more important, powerful, successful, or noticeable than other people or things ▪ Red is the *predominant* [=*main*] color in the painting. ▪ Religion is the *predominant* theme of the play. ▪ She is *predominant* among new writers. ▪ Older people are *predominant* in that neighborhood. [=most of the people in that neighborhood are older]
– **pre•dom•i•nant•ly** *adv* ▪ The speech was *predominantly* [=*mainly, primarily*] about tax cuts. ▪ The people in that neighborhood are *predominantly* [=*mostly*] older.

[1]pre•dom•i•nate /prɪ'dɑ:məˌneɪt/ *verb* **-nates**; **-nat•ed**; **-nat•ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to be more successful or powerful than other people or things — often + *over* ▪ One ethnic group *predominates over* others in that country.
2 : to be greater in number or amount than other types of people or things ▪ Cottages *predominate* along the beach. [=most of the buildings along the beach are cottages] ▪ Older people *predominate* in that neighborhood. ▪ Rain *predominates* [=there is a great deal of rain] in the tropical regions.

[2]pre•dom•i•nate /prɪ'dɑ:mənət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : PREDOMINANT ▪ the *predominate* color in the painting ▪ the *predominate* reason for the change
– **pre•dom•i•nate•ly** /prɪ'dɑ:mənətli/ *adv* ▪ The people in that neighborhood are *predominately* [=*mostly, predominantly*] older.

pre•eclamp•sia /ˌpri:jɪ'klæmpsijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a serious condition that causes a pregnant women to develop very high blood pressure — called also *toxemia*

pree•mie /'pri:mi/ *noun, pl* **-mies** [*count*] *US, informal* : a baby that is born before it has fully developed : a premature baby

pre•em•i•nent /pri'ɛmənənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : more important, skillful, or successful than others : better than others ▪ She's the *preeminent* chef in a city that has many good ones. ▪ The poem is a *preeminent* example of his work.
– **pre•em•i•nence** /pri'ɛmənənts/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the nation's *preeminence* in world affairs ▪ military *preeminence*

pre•em•i•nent•ly /pri'ɛmənəntli/ *adv, formal* : to a very great degree ▪ He is *preeminently* qualified for the position.

pre•empt /pri'ɛmpt/ *verb* **-empts**; **-empt•ed**; **-empt•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 *formal* : to prevent (something) from happening ▪ The contract *preempts* lawsuits by the company's clients.
2 *formal* : to take the place of (something) ▪ The state law was *preempted* by a federal law.
3 *US* : to be shown instead of (another television program) ▪ The President's speech *preempted* regular programming.
– **pre•emp•tion** /pri'ɛmpʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*noncount*] federal *preemption* of state jurisdiction ▪ Some viewers complained about the *preemption* of regular programming. [*count*] *preemptions* of regular programming

pre•emp•tive /pri'ɛmptɪv/ *adj* : done to stop an unwanted act by another group, country, etc., from happening ▪ The country took *preemptive* action against the perceived enemy. ▪ a *preemptive* attack/strike by the army
– **pre•emp•tive•ly** *adv*

preen /'pri:n/ *verb* **preens**; **preened**; **preen•ing**
1 *of a bird* : to use the beak to clean and arrange feathers [+ *obj*] The bird was *preening* its feathers. = The bird was *preening* itself. [*no obj*] The bird was *preening*.
2 : to make (yourself) neat and tidy [+ *obj*] She stood *preening* herself in front of the mirror. [*no obj*] She stood *preening* in front of the mirror.
3 *disapproving* : to act in a way that shows you are very proud about something or pleased with yourself [*no obj*] The award-winners were *preening* backstage. [+ *obj*] They are *preening* themselves on their success.

pre•ex•ist•ing /ˌpri:ɪg'zɪstɪŋ/ *adj* : existing at an earlier time : existing before something else ▪ The insurance does not cover *preexisting* medical conditions. ▪ They made changes to the *preexisting* law.

pre•ex•is•tent /ˌpri:ɪg'zɪstənt/ *adj* : PREEXISTING

[1]pre•fab /ˌpri:'fæb/ *adj, informal* : PREFABRICATED ▪ a *prefab* home

[2]prefab *noun, pl* **-fabs** [*count*] *informal* : a prefabricated building (such as a house) ▪ The company sells hundreds of *prefabs* every year.

pre•fab•ri•cated /ˌpri:'fæbrɪˌkeɪtəd/ *adj* : made of parts that are made at a factory and that can be put together later ▪ *prefabricated* buildings/houses

[1]pref•ace /'prɛfəs/ *noun, pl* **-ac•es** [*count*] : an introduction to a book or speech ▪ The book's *preface* was written by the author.

[2]preface *verb* **-aces**; **-aced**; **-ac•ing** [+ *obj*] : to introduce (a piece of writing, a speech, a remark, etc.) by writing or saying something ▪ Each chapter in the book is *prefaced* by a suitable quotation. [=there is a suitable quotation at the beginning of each chapter] — often + *with* ▪ She *prefaces* the book *with* a short account of what influenced her to write it. ▪ He *prefaced* his remarks *with* a short biographical sketch.

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pref•a•tory /ˈprɛfəˌtori, *Brit* ˈprɛfətri/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : included at the beginning of a book, speech, etc., as an introduction ▪ The speaker made some *prefatory* remarks. ▪ Each chapter in the book has a *prefatory* quotation.

pre•fect /ˈpriːˌfɛkt/ *noun, pl* **-fects** [*count*]
1 : a chief officer or government official who is responsible for a particular area in some countries (such as Japan and France)
2 *chiefly Brit* : an older student who is given the job of helping to watch and control younger students in a school

pre•fec•ture /ˈpriːˌfɛktʃɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tures** [*count*] : any one of the areas into which some countries (such as Japan and France) are divided for local government : the area that is governed by a prefect

pre•fer /prɪˈfɚ/ *verb* **-fers**; **-ferred**; **-fer•ring** [+ *obj*]
1 : to like (someone or something) better than someone or something else ▪ Some people like vanilla ice cream, but I *prefer* chocolate. ▪ I *prefer* shopping online. ▪ She tends to *prefer* small college campuses. ▪ I *prefer* this dictionary because of its helpful examples. ▪ I would *prefer* it if you smoked outside. = I would *prefer* you to smoke outside. ▪ Which one is the *preferred* alternative? ▪ What is the *preferred* pronunciation of her name? — often + *to* or *over* ▪ He *prefers* sports *to* reading. ▪ He *prefers* a good book *to* a movie. ▪ She *prefers* chocolate *over* vanilla. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ I suggested that we play a game, but they *preferred to watch* TV. ▪ I would *prefer* not *to know* about it.
2 *law* : to make (a charge) against someone in a court of law ▪ They *preferred* [=*brought*] charges against him for manslaughter. [=they formally accused him of the crime of manslaughter]

pref•er•a•ble /ˈprɛfrəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : better or more desirable ▪ the *preferable* choice — often + *to* ▪ As far as I'm concerned, physical therapy is greatly/infinitely *preferable to* surgery. ▪ The book is far/much *preferable to* the movie. [=is much better than the movie]

pref•er•a•bly /ˈprɛfrəbli/ *adv* — used to say what is most wanted or preferred ▪ I'd like to have the work done soon, *preferably* by the end of the week. ▪ Applicants should hold a college degree, *preferably* with experience in the lab.

pref•er•ence /ˈprɛfrəns/ *noun, pl* **-enc•es**
1 : a feeling of liking or wanting one person or thing more than another person or thing [*count*] Car buyers have recently shown a growing/strong *preference* for smaller vehicles. ▪ When it comes to music, everyone has their own *preferences*. [*noncount*] Some people like small cars and some people like big cars. It's a matter of personal *preference*. ▪ She listed her favorite restaurants in order of *preference*. ▪ He has tried not to show *preference* in giving out jobs.
2 [*noncount*] : an advantage that is given to some people or things and not to others ▪ The policy of the school is to ***give preference*** to minority candidates.
3 [*count*] : something that is liked or wanted more than another thing : something that is preferred ▪ We could drive to New York, but my (personal) *preference* is to go by train. [=I would prefer to go by train] ▪ "We could go to an Italian or Chinese restaurant tonight. What's your *preference*?" "Either one is fine. I don't have a *preference*."
4 : the sexual feelings that a person has : a person's identity as homosexual, bisexual, or heterosexual [*count*] people with different (sexual) *preferences* [=*orientations*] [*noncount*] The company claims it does not discriminate on the basis of sexual *preference*.
in preference to : instead of (something or someone) : rather than (something or someone) ▪ They chose her *in preference to* me.

pref•er•en•tial /ˌprɛfəˈrɛnʃəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : giving an advantage to a particular person or group ▪ powerful people who demand/get/receive ***preferential treatment*** from politicians
– **pref•er•en•tial•ly** *adv* ▪ The manager's friends are treated *preferentially*.

pre•fer•ment /prɪˈfɚmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the act of moving someone to a higher or more important position or rank in an organization ▪ He has hopes for *preferment*.

preferred provider *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *US* : a doctor, hospital, etc., that is part of a PPO

preferred provider organization *noun, pl* ~ **-tions** [*count*] *US* : PPO

pre•fig•ure /ˌpriːˈfɪgjɚ, *Brit* ˌpriːˈfɪgə/ *verb* **-ures**; **-ured**; **-ur•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to show or suggest (something that will happen or exist at a future time) ▪ His style of painting *prefigured* the development of modern art.

[1]pre•fix /ˈpriːˌfɪks/ *noun, pl* **-fix•es** [*count*]
1 : a letter or group of letters that is added at the beginning of a word to change its meaning ▪ Add the *prefix* "re-" to form the words "retell" and "recall." — compare AFFIX, SUFFIX
2 *old-fashioned* : a title (such as "Mr." or "Dr.") that is used before a person's name

[2]pre•fix /ˌpriːˈfɪks/ *verb* **-fix•es**; **-fixed**; **-fix•ing** [+ *obj*] : to add a letter, number, or symbol at the beginning of a word or number ▪ *Prefix* "un" to "do" to form the word "undo." ▪ The cost of the item was *prefixed* by/with a dollar sign.

pre•game /ˈpriːˈgeɪm/ *adj, always used before a noun, US* : happening before the beginning of a sports game ▪ a *pregame* interview

preg•nan•cy /ˈprɛgnənsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies** : the condition of a woman or female animal that is going to have a baby or babies : the condition of a pregnant woman or female animal [*count*] women who have had multiple *pregnancies* [=women who have been pregnant many times] ▪ an unwanted/unplanned *pregnancy* [*noncount*] She's being careful about what she eats during (her) *pregnancy*. ▪ a ***pregnancy test*** [=a medical test to see if a woman is pregnant]

preg•nant /ˈprɛgnənt/ *adj*
1 *of a woman or female animal* : having a baby or babies developing inside the body ▪ *pregnant* women ▪ She got/became *pregnant* soon after her marriage. ▪ He got his girlfriend *pregnant*. [=he caused his girlfriend to become pregnant] — often + *with* ▪ His wife is *pregnant with* twins. [=she is going to give birth to twins] ▪ She is *pregnant with* her first child.
2 *formal* : filled with meaning or emotion because of what is going to happen or be said ▪ There was a *pregnant* pause/silence before the winner was announced. — often + *with* ▪ The moment was *pregnant with* excitement.

pre•heat /ˌpriːˈhiːt/ *verb* **-heats**; **-heat•ed**; **-heat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to heat (an oven) to a particular temperature before putting food to be cooked inside ▪ *Preheat* the oven to 375 degrees before you put the roast in.

pre•hen•sile /priːˈhɛnsəl, *Brit* priːˈhɛnsajəl/ *adj, technical* : capable of grabbing or holding something by wrapping around it ▪ The monkey has a *prehensile* tail. ▪ The elephant has a *prehensile* trunk.

pre•his•tor•ic /ˌpriːhɪˈstorɪk/ *also* **pre•his•tor•i•cal** /ˌpriːhɪˈstorɪkəl/ *adj*
1 : of, relating to, or existing in the time before people could write ▪ *prehistoric* animals/remains ▪ *prehistoric* times
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal + disapproving* : very old or outdated ▪ His attitudes about women are downright *prehistoric*.

pre•his•to•ry /ˌpriːˈhɪstəri/ *noun, pl* **-to•ries**
1 [*noncount*] : the period of time in the past before people could write : the time before history was written down ▪ We are learning about the *prehistory* of North America.
2 [*count*] : the time and events that came before and led to the development of something — usually singular ▪ the *prehistory* of the Internet

pre•judge /ˌpriːˈdʒʌdʒ/ *verb* **-judg•es**; **-judged**; **-judg•ing** [+ *obj*] : to form an opinion about (someone or something) before you have enough understanding or knowledge ▪ Officials complain that some reporters have *prejudged* the outcome of the investigation. ▪ She was wrong for *prejudging* him.

[1]prej•u•dice /ˈprɛdʒədəs/ *noun, pl* **-dic•es**
1 : an unfair feeling of dislike for a person or group because of race, sex, religion, etc. [*noncount*] The organization fights against racial *prejudice*. — often + *against* ▪ evidence of *prejudice against* women and minorities [*count*] religious, racial, and sexual *prejudices*
2 [*count*] : a feeling of like or dislike for someone or something especially when it is not reasonable or logical ▪ We tend to make these kinds of decisions according to our own *prejudices*. ▪ He has a *prejudice* against fast-food restaurants.

[2]prejudice *verb* **-dices**; **-diced**; **-dic•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to cause (someone) to have an unfair feeling of dislike for someone or something ▪ The incident *prejudiced* [=*biased*] consumers against the company.
2 *formal* : to have a harmful effect on (something, such as a legal case) ▪ The defense claims that the media coverage *prejudiced* the trial. [=damaged the trial so that the result of the trial is not valid]

prejudiced *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having or showing an unfair feeling of dislike for a per-

son or group because of race, sex, religion, etc. ▪ a *prejudiced* person ▪ *prejudiced* comments ▪ Most Americans deny being *prejudiced* against people of other races.
2 : having a feeling or like or dislike for something or someone ▪ I was *prejudiced* against the movie because of its title.

prej•u•di•cial /ˌprɛʤəˈdɪʃəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : showing an unfair feeling of dislike for a person or group because of race, sex, religion, etc. : showing prejudice ▪ *prejudicial* feelings
2 *formal* : causing or likely to cause injury or harm to someone or something ▪ The judge ruled that the *prejudicial* effect of the evidence outweighed its value. — often + *to* ▪ The appeals court ruled that the testimony was unfairly *prejudicial to* the defendant.

pre–K /ˈpriːˈkeɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : PREKINDERGARTEN ▪ Her daughter is in *pre-K* this year.

pre•kin•der•gar•ten /ˌpriːˈkɪndəˌgɑɚtn̩/ *noun* [*count, noncount*] *US*
1 : a class or program that is for children who are usually three or four years old
2 : PRESCHOOL

prel•ate /ˈprɛlət/ *noun, pl* **-ates** [*count*] *formal* : a high-ranking Christian priest : a bishop, cardinal, etc.

[1]pre•lim•i•nary /prɪˈlɪməˌneri, *Brit* prɪˈlɪmənri/ *adj* : coming before the main part of something ▪ *Preliminary* findings/studies/tests show that the drug could help patients with skin cancer. ▪ The *preliminary* [=*early*] results of the experiment are encouraging. ▪ a *preliminary* hearing ▪ The team was eliminated in the *preliminary* round of the tournament. ▪ research that is *preliminary* to the study

[2]preliminary *noun, pl* **-nar•ies** [*count*]
1 : something that comes first in order to prepare for or introduce the main part of something else — often + *to* ▪ There will be a short briefing about topics to be discussed as a *preliminary to* the meeting. — usually plural ▪ There were the usual *preliminaries* before the ceremony.
2 : a game that is played before the main part of a competition to decide which players or teams will be allowed to continue playing — usually plural ▪ the World Cup *preliminaries*

pre•lude /ˈprɛlˌjuːd/ *noun, pl* **-ludes** [*count*]
1 : something that comes before and leads to something else — usually singular; often + *to* ▪ The dark clouds were a *prelude to* the storm. ▪ Drinks and appetizers were offered as a *prelude to* dinner.
2 : a short piece of music that introduces a longer piece

pre•mar•i•tal /ˌpriːˈmerətl̩/ *adj, always used before a noun* : happening before marriage ▪ *premarital* sex ▪ *premarital* counseling

pre•ma•ture /ˌpriːməˈtuɚ, ˌpriːməˈʧuɚ, *Brit* ˈprɛməʧə/ *adj*
1 : happening too soon or earlier than usual ▪ Her *premature* death at age 30 stunned her family and friends. ▪ Too much exposure to the sun can cause the *premature* aging of skin. ▪ His retirement seems *premature*. ▪ It is *premature* to say [=too soon to say] what the cause of the fire was. ▪ a *premature* birth
2 : born before the normal time ▪ *premature* babies ▪ The baby was three weeks *premature*. [=the baby was born three weeks before it was expected to be born]
– **pre•ma•ture•ly** *adv* ▪ She died *prematurely*. ▪ He was *prematurely* gray. = His hair went gray *prematurely*. ▪ The child was born *prematurely*.

pre•med /ˈpriːˈmɛd/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : a course of study at a college or university that prepares students to enter medical school ▪ She majored in *premed*.
– **premed** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *premed* students/classes

pre•med•i•tat•ed /ˌpriːˈmɛdəˌteɪtəd/ *adj* : done or made according to a plan : planned in advance ▪ *premeditated* murder ▪ The attack was *premeditated*.

pre•men•stru•al /ˌpriːˈmɛnstrəwəl/ *adj* : happening just before a woman's menstrual period : before menstruation ▪ *premenstrual* symptoms

premenstrual syndrome *noun* [*noncount*] : a condition experienced by some women before menstruation that may include tiredness, irritability, anxiety, depression, headache, and stomach pain — called also (*US*) *PMS*, (*Brit*) *PMT*, (*Brit*) *premenstrual tension*

[1]pre•mier /prɪˈmiɚ, *Brit* ˈprɛmiə/ *noun, pl* **-miers** [*count*] : PRIME MINISTER ▪ the Russian *premier*

Do not confuse *premier* with *premiere*.

[2]premier *adj, always used before a noun* : most important or best ▪ the city's *premier* restaurant ▪ a concert by one of the world's *premier* [=*leading*] pianists

[1]pre•miere *also* **pre•mière** /prɪˈmiɚ, *Brit* ˈprɛmiˌɛə/ *noun, pl* **-mieres** *also* **-mières** [*count*] : the first time a film, play, television show, etc., is shown or performed ▪ The movie will have its *premiere* next week. ▪ We saw the Chicago *premiere* of the play. [=the first public performance of the play in Chicago] ▪ the ***world premiere*** [=the first public performance anywhere in the world] of a new symphony

Do not confuse *premiere* with *premier*.

[2]premiere *also* **première** *verb* **-mieres** *also* **-mières**; **-miered** *also* **-mièred**; **-mier•ing** *also* **-mièr•ing**
1 [*no obj*] *of a movie, play, television show, etc.* : to be shown or performed for the first time ▪ The movie/play *premieres* next week.
2 [+ *obj*] : to show or perform (a movie, play, television show, etc.) for the first time — usually used as *(be) premiered* ▪ The movie *was premiered* at a film festival.

pre•mier•ship /prɪˈmiɚˌʃɪp, *Brit* ˈprɛmiəˌʃɪp/ *noun, pl* **-ships** [*count*] : the job of a prime minister or the period of time when a person is prime minister — usually singular ▪ a businessman who is seeking the *premiership* [=trying to be elected prime minister] ▪ Her *premiership* ends this year.

prem•ise /ˈprɛməs/ *noun, pl* **-is•es**
1 ***premises*** [*plural*] : a building and the area of land that it is on ▪ They were asked to leave the *premises*. ▪ The company leases part of the *premises* to smaller businesses. ▪ The *premises* were searched by the police.
2 *also Brit* **pre•miss** [*count*] *formal* : a statement or idea that is accepted as being true and that is used as the basis of an argument ▪ He disagreed with her *premise*. ▪ the basic *premises* of the argument ▪ a theory based on the simple *premise* that what goes up must come down
off the premises *also* ***off premises*** : away from or outside of a building or on the area of land that it is on ▪ Police escorted her *off the premises*. ▪ The printing of the books is done *off the premises*. [=at another place]
on the premises *also* ***on premises*** : inside a building or on the area of land that it is on ▪ The hotel has a restaurant *on the premises*. [=inside the hotel] ▪ No smoking is allowed *on the premises*.

pre•mised /ˈprɛməst/ *adj*
premised on/upon : based on (a particular idea or belief) ▪ The plan is *premised on* the belief that people are willing to pay more to use alternative fuel sources.

[1]pre•mi•um /ˈpriːmijəm/ *noun, pl* **-ums**
1 [*count*] : the price of insurance ▪ Health insurance *premiums* went up again this year. : the amount paid for insurance ▪ The monthly *premium* for your health insurance is deducted from your paycheck.
2 [*singular*] : a price that is higher than the regular price ▪ There is a *premium* [=higher price] for hotel rooms that have views of the beach. ▪ Many customers are willing to pay a *premium* for organic vegetables. ▪ Land in the county is selling ***at a premium***. [=for a high price] — see also AT A PREMIUM (below)
3 [*singular*] : a high or extra value ▪ Publishers ***put/place a premium*** on accuracy. [=publishers value accuracy very highly]
at a premium : difficult to get because there is little available ▪ We bought bunk beds because space in the apartment is *at a premium*. ▪ Overnight delivery is available when time is *at a premium*. [=when something needs to happen or be done very soon]

[2]premium *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : high or higher than normal ▪ Customers are willing to pay *premium* [=*high*] prices for products that are reliable. ▪ The hotel charges *premium* [=*higher*] rates during the summer.
2 : of high or higher than normal quality ▪ *premium* cigars/gasoline

pre•mo•ni•tion /ˌpriːməˈnɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] : a feeling or belief that something is going to happen when there is no definite reason to believe it will ▪ *premonitions* of disaster ▪ She had a *premonition* that he would call.

pre•na•tal /ˌpriːˈneɪtl̩/ *adj, always used before a noun, medical* : relating to pregnant women and their unborn babies ▪ *prenatal* [=(*Brit*) *antenatal*] care/development/testing/diagnosis ▪ *prenatal* vitamins
– **pre•na•tal•ly** *adv* ▪ The baby was tested *prenatally* for hereditary diseases.

P

pre•nup /ˈpriːˌnʌp/ *noun, pl* **-nups** [*count*] : PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENT

pre•nup•tial agreement /ˌpriːˈnʌpʃəl-/ *noun, pl* ~ **-ments** [*count*] *law* : an official agreement that two people make before they marry in which they state how much of each other's property each will receive if they divorce or if one of them dies ▪ Did you sign a *prenuptial agreement*? [=*prenup*]

pre•oc•cu•pa•tion /ˌpriːˌɑːkjəˈpeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*]
1 : a state in which you give all your attention to something — usually + *with* ▪ I don't understand her *preoccupation with* her appearance.
2 : something that you give all or most of your attention to ▪ We need to better understand the problems and *preoccupations* of our clients.

pre•oc•cu•pied /ˌpriːˈɑːkjəˌpaɪd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : thinking about something a lot or too much — often + *with* ▪ She is too *preoccupied with* family problems to focus on her work.

pre•oc•cu•py /ˌpriːˈɑːkjəˌpaɪ/ *verb* **-pies**; **-pied**; **-py•ing** [+ *obj*] : to be thought about or worried about by (someone) very often or constantly ▪ The question of life after death has *preoccupied* many philosophers. ▪ Her family problems continue to *preoccupy* her. [=she continues to spend a lot of time thinking/worrying about her family problems]

pre–op /ˈpriːˈɑːp/ *adj, medical* : PREOPERATIVE ▪ a *pre-op* evaluation/consultation

pre•op•er•a•tive /ˌpriːˈɑːprətɪv/ *adj, medical* : happening before an operation ▪ *preoperative* assessment/diagnosis/care

pre•or•dained /ˌpriːjɔəˈdeɪnd/ *adj, formal* : decided in advance and certain to happen ▪ a *preordained* conclusion ▪ Although such an outcome is likely, it is by no means *preordained*. [=it is not certain]

pre–owned /ˌpriːˈoʊnd/ *adj* : owned by someone else before : previously owned ▪ They sell quality *pre-owned* [=*used, secondhand*] cars. ▪ The car is *pre-owned*.

[1]prep /ˈprɛp/ *verb* **preps**; **prepped**; **prep•ping** *US, informal* : PREPARE: such as **a** : to make yourself ready for something — usually + *for* [*no obj*] She spent all night *prepping for* the test. [+ *obj*] The runners are *prepping* themselves *for* the race. **b** [+ *obj*] : to make (someone or something) ready for something ▪ It took me about 20 minutes to *prep* the vegetables. — often + *for* ▪ Teachers spent the week *prepping* students *for* the test. ▪ The patient is being *prepped for* surgery.

[2]prep *noun* [*noncount*] *informal*
1 *US* : PREPARATION ▪ Painting a room involves a lot of *prep*. — usually used before another noun ▪ These recipes require minimal *prep* time. [=you need only a little time to make these recipes] ▪ college *prep* courses [=classes that students take to get ready for college]
2 *US* : PREP SCHOOL — usually used before another noun ▪ *prep* students [=students who attend a prep school] ▪ *prep* sports
3 *Brit* : HOMEWORK

[3]prep *abbr* preposition

pre•pack /ˌpriːˈpæk/ *verb* **-packs**; **-packed**; **-pack•ing** [+ *obj*] : PREPACKAGE — usually used as *(be) prepacked* ▪ The sandwiches *are prepacked*. ▪ *prepacked* meals

pre•pack•age /ˌpriːˈpækəʤ/ *verb* **-ag•es**; **-aged**; **-ag•ing** [+ *obj*] : to put (a product) in a package before selling it — usually used as *(be) prepackaged* ▪ The meals *are prepackaged* and ready to eat. ▪ *prepackaged* software ▪ *prepackaged* salads — sometimes used figuratively ▪ a *prepackaged* speech [=a speech that is not original or special]

prepaid *past tense and past participle of* PREPAY

prep•a•ra•tion /ˌprɛpəˈreɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*noncount*] : the activity or process of making something ready or of becoming ready for something ▪ The festival involves a lot of *preparation*. ▪ food/meal *preparation* ▪ To complete this recipe, plan on about 30 minutes of *preparation* and 40 minutes of baking. ▪ Plans for the next edition are already ***in preparation***. [=are already being prepared/made] — often + *for* ▪ Her *preparation for* the role included training in karate. ▪ The boxer exercised daily ***in preparation for*** the fight. [=to prepare for the fight]
2 *preparations* [*plural*] : things that are done to make something ready or to become ready for something ▪ The staff is ***making preparations*** to move to another building. [=the staff is doing things to become ready to move to another building] ▪ ***Preparations are under way*** [=things are being done to become ready] for the move to the new building. — often + *for* ▪ *Preparations for* the parade are almost completed. ▪ They are busy with *preparations for* their wedding.
3 [*count*] : a substance (such as a cream or lotion) that you use as medicine or to improve your appearance ▪ a vitamin E *preparation* ▪ skin care *preparations*

pre•pa•ra•to•ry /prɪˈperəˌtori, *Brit* prɪˈpærətri/ *adj, always used before a noun* : used or done to prepare for something ▪ The new employees have begun *preparatory* [=*introductory*] training. ▪ There is a lot of *preparatory* work involved in teaching.
preparatory to *formal* : as a way of becoming ready for (something) : in preparation for (something) ▪ *Preparatory to* the job interview, I researched the company.

preparatory school *noun, pl* ~ **schools** [*count*] : PREP SCHOOL

pre•pare /prɪˈpeɚ/ *verb* **-pares**; **-pared**; **-par•ing**
1 a [+ *obj*] : to make (someone or something) ready for some activity, purpose, use, etc. ▪ The teacher *prepared* the students for the test. ▪ Your room is being *prepared* now and should be ready soon. ▪ The nurses *prepared* the patient for surgery. ▪ Farmers are busy *preparing* the soil for planting. **b** : to make yourself ready for something that you will be doing, something that you expect to happen, etc. [*no obj*] They'll be arriving soon. We don't have much more time to *prepare*. — often + *for* ▪ We don't have much more time to *prepare for* their arrival. ▪ He *prepares for* games by studying tapes of the opposing team. ▪ At this time of year, most animals are *preparing for* winter. [+ *obj*] We don't have much more time to *prepare* ourselves *for* their arrival. ▪ She tried to *prepare* herself *for* bad news. ▪ The sailors are *preparing* themselves *for* a long voyage.
2 [+ *obj*] : to make or create (something) so that it is ready for use ▪ She *prepared* [=*made*] dinner. ▪ *Prepare* a salad. ▪ He *prepared* [=*wrote*] a report for his boss. ▪ The pharmacist *prepared* the prescription.

prepared *adj*
1 : made at an earlier time for later use : made ready in advance ▪ The president read a *prepared* statement. ▪ The store sells a selection of *prepared* foods.
2 : ready for something : in a suitable condition for some purpose or activity ▪ I got so nervous. I guess I just wasn't *prepared*. ▪ She was well-*prepared* and scored high on the test. — often + *for* ▪ Be *prepared* [=*ready*] *for* a long wait. ▪ The campers were not *prepared for* the rain.
3 *not used before a noun* : willing *to do* something ▪ How much are you *prepared to pay*? ▪ I wasn't *prepared to spend* that much money. ▪ I'm *prepared to listen*.

pre•pared•ness /prɪˈperədnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the fact of being ready for something : the state of being prepared ▪ The police have been criticized for their lack of *preparedness*. [=for not being prepared] ▪ emergency *preparedness* [=being ready for an emergency] ▪ The military is in a state of *preparedness*.

pre•pay /ˌpriːˈpeɪ/ *verb* **-pays**; **-paid** /-ˈpeɪd/; **-pay•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to pay for (something) before you receive or use it ▪ Special orders must be *prepaid*.
2 : to pay (something) before you are required to pay it ▪ There is no penalty for *prepaying* the loan. [=for paying what you owe sooner than you have agreed to]
– prepaid *adj* ▪ a *prepaid* calling card ▪ a *prepaid* envelope [=an envelope for which the postage has already been paid]
– pre•pay•ment /ˌpriːˈpeɪmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] loan *prepayments* [*noncount*] We have the option of *prepayment* without a penalty. — often used before another noun ▪ a *prepayment* penalty

pre•pon•der•ance /prɪˈpɑːndərəns/ *noun* [*singular*] *formal* : a greater amount or number of something ▪ A *preponderance* of the evidence [=most of the evidence] shows that the accused is guilty. ▪ The *preponderance* [=*majority*] of visitors to the museum are from outside the country.

pre•pon•der•ant /priˈpɑːndərənt/ *adj, formal* : greater in number, force, or importance ▪ A *preponderant* number of visitors [=most of the visitors] are from outside the country. ▪ the country's *preponderant* [=*dominant*] power
– pre•pon•der•ant•ly *adv* ▪ Visitors to the museum are *preponderantly* [=*predominantly*] foreign.

prep•o•si•tion /ˌprɛpəˈzɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *grammar* : a word or group of words that is used with a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase to show direction, location, or time, or to introduce an object ▪ The *preposition* "on" in "The

keys are on the table" shows location. ▪ The *preposition* "in" in "The movie starts in one hour" shows time.

prep•o•si•tion•al phrase /ˌprɛpəˈzɪʃənl-/ *noun, pl* ~ **phrases** [*count*] *grammar* : a phrase that begins with a preposition and ends in a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase ▪ In "He is from Russia," "from Russia" is a *prepositional phrase*.

pre•pos•sess•ing /ˌpri:pəˈsɛzɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *somewhat formal* : having qualities that people like : appealing or attractive ▪ a *prepossessing* young musician ▪ She lives in one of the least *prepossessing* parts of the city.

pre•pos•ter•ous /prɪˈpɑ:stərəs/ *adj* : very foolish or silly ▪ a *preposterous* excuse ▪ The whole idea is *preposterous*!
– **pre•pos•ter•ous•ly** *adv* ▪ The prices are *preposterously* [=*absurdly*] high. – **pre•pos•ter•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She laughed at the *preposterousness* [=*absurdity*] of my suggestion.

prep•py *or* **prep•pie** /ˈprɛpi/ *noun, pl* **-pies** [*count*] *US, informal + often disapproving* : someone who dresses or acts like a student at a prep school (such as by wearing neat, somewhat formal clothing or by using particular words and phrases) ▪ a rich *preppy*
– **preppy** *or* **preppie** *adj* ▪ *preppy* clothes

prep school *noun, pl* ~ **schools** [*count*]
1 *US* : a private school that prepares students for college
2 *Brit* : a private school for children between the ages of 7 and 13

pre•pu•bes•cent /ˌpri:pjuˈbɛsn̩t/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : relating to or being in the period of life just before puberty ▪ *prepubescent* growth ▪ *prepubescent* children

pre•quel /ˈpri:kwəl/ *noun, pl* **-quels** [*count*] : a movie, book, etc., that tells the part of a story that happened before the story in another movie, book, etc. ▪ His next film will be a *prequel* to last year's hit movie. — compare SEQUEL

pre•re•cord /ˌpri:rɪˈkoɚd/ *verb* **-cords**; **-cord•ed**; **-cord•ing** [+ *obj*] : to record (something, such as a radio or television program) before showing it to the public, broadcasting it, etc. ▪ The television show *prerecords* most of its interviews. ▪ a *prerecorded* program/interview

pre•reg•is•ter /ˌpri:ˈrɛʤəstɚ/ *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter•ing** [*no obj*] *chiefly US* : to put your name on an official list in order to become a participant in something (such as a college course) before the usual time during which this list is made : to register before the official registration period ▪ Students can *preregister* online. — often + *for* ▪ I *preregistered for* the class.
– **pre•reg•is•tra•tion** /ˌpri:ˌrɛʤəˈstreɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *Preregistration* begins tomorrow.

pre•req•ui•site /ˌpri:ˈrɛkwəzət/ *noun, pl* **-sites** [*count*] : something that you officially must have or do before you can have or do something else : REQUIREMENT — often + *for* or *to* ▪ Citizenship is a *prerequisite for* voting. ▪ The introductory course is a *prerequisite for* the advanced-level courses. ▪ Having good credit is a *prerequisite to* applying for a loan.

pre•rog•a•tive /prɪˈrɑ:gətɪv/ *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*] *formal* : a right or privilege ▪ If you'd rather sell the tickets than use them, that's your *prerogative*. ▪ It's a writer's *prerogative* to decide the fate of her characters.; *especially* : a special right or privilege that some people have ▪ presidential *prerogatives* [=the rights or privileges a president has] — often + *of* ▪ Education was once only the *prerogative of* the wealthy.

pres. *abbr* **1** present **2** president

pre•sage /ˈprɛsɪʤ/ *verb* **-sag•es**; **-saged**; **-sag•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to give or be a sign of (something that will happen or develop in the future) ▪ Many investors are worried that the current slowdown could *presage* another recession. ▪ events that *presaged* the civil rights movement

Pres•by•te•ri•an /ˌprɛzbəˈtirijən/ *adj* : of or relating to a Christian church in Scotland, the U.S., and other countries that is officially led by a group of ministers and elders (called a presbytery) ▪ a *Presbyterian* doctrine/church ▪ The minister is *Presbyterian*.
– **Presbyterian** *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*] – **Pres•by•te•ri•an•ism** /ˌprɛzbəˈtirijəˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]

pres•by•tery /ˈprɛzbəˌteri, *Brit* ˈprɛzbətri/ *noun, pl* **-ter•ies** [*count*]
1 : a group of ministers and elders who are the leaders of the Presbyterian churches in a particular area
2 : the house where a Roman Catholic priest lives : RECTORY

[1]pre•school /ˈpri:ˌsku:l/ *noun, pl* **-schools** [*count, noncount*] *chiefly US* : a school for very young children — called also *nursery school*

[2]preschool *adj, always used before a noun* : relating to the time in a child's life when the child is old enough to talk and walk but is not ready to go to school ▪ *preschool* age/education/children

pre•school•er /ˈpriˌsku:lɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *US*
1 : a child who is old enough to talk and walk but who is too young to go to school
2 : a child who goes to a preschool

pre•science /ˈprɛʃijəns, *Brit* ˈprɛsiəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the ability to know what will or might happen in the future : FORESIGHT ▪ He predicted their response with amazing *prescience*. ▪ Her *prescience* as an investor is impressive.

pre•scient /ˈprɛʃijənt, *Brit* ˈprɛsiənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : having or showing an ability to know what will happen before it does ▪ She was remarkably *prescient* about the outcome of the elections. ▪ a *prescient* remark
– **pre•scient•ly** *adv*

pre•scribe /prɪˈskraɪb/ *verb* **-scribes**; **-scribed**; **-scribing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to officially tell someone to use (a medicine, therapy, diet, etc.) as a remedy or treatment ▪ My doctor *prescribed* this medicine. = This medicine was *prescribed* by my doctor. ▪ This drug should not be *prescribed* to children. ▪ a drug commonly *prescribed* to treat rashes ▪ The doctor *prescribed* three months of physical therapy for my leg injury.
2 : to make (something) an official rule ▪ The law *prescribes* a prison sentence of at least five years for the crime. ▪ The regulations *prescribe* that all employees must pass a physical examination. ▪ We must follow the rules as *prescribed* by the government.
– **prescribed** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ the *prescribed* dosage of a drug ▪ Members must obey the *prescribed* rules of conduct.

pre•scrip•tion /prɪˈskrɪpʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 a : a written message from a doctor that officially tells someone to use a medicine, therapy, etc. [*count*] The drug is only sold with a *prescription*. — often + *for* ▪ The doctor wrote me a *prescription for* cough syrup. [*noncount*] (*US*) The drug is only available ***by prescription***. = (*Brit*) The drug is only available ***on prescription***. [=you can only get the drug if you have a prescription] **b** [*count*] : a medicine or drug that a doctor officially tells someone to use ▪ I have to pick up my *prescription*. — often used before another noun ▪ *prescription* drugs/medicine/costs
2 [*count*] : something that is suggested as a way to do something or to make something happen — + *for* ▪ a *prescription for* economic recovery ▪ a *prescription for* improving the educational system

pre•scrip•tive /prɪˈskrɪptɪv/ *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : giving exact rules, directions, or instructions about how you should do something ▪ Critics claim the new rules/regulations are too *prescriptive*.
2 *technical* : providing rules and opinions that tell people how language should be used ▪ *prescriptive* dictionaries — opposite DESCRIPTIVE

pre•sea•son /ˌpri:ˈsi:zn̩/ *noun, pl* **-sons** [*count*] *sports* : a period of time before the regular season when players train and people or teams play against each other in unofficial games ▪ The team only won two games during the *preseason*. ▪ *preseason* training/games

pres•ence /ˈprɛzn̩s/ *noun, pl* **-enc•es**
1 [*count*] : the fact of being in a particular place : the state of being present — usually singular ▪ The test results showed the *presence* of bacteria in the water. [=showed that there were bacteria in the water] ▪ No one was aware of the stranger's *presence*. ▪ His very *presence* on the basketball court intimidated opponents. ▪ She talked about the growing *presence* of women in the construction industry. [=the increasing number of women working in the construction industry]
2 [*noncount*] : the area that is close to someone — used to describe being in the same place as someone ▪ Please don't smoke ***in my presence***. [=near me; when I am present] ▪ She asked them not to talk about the accident *in her presence*. ▪ Their daughter is shy ***in the presence of*** [=*around*] strangers. ▪ The contract was signed *in the presence of* two witnesses.
3 [*count*] : someone or something that is seen or noticed in a particular place, area, etc. — usually singular ▪ Her mother was a constant *presence* at the swim meets. [=her mother always went to the swim meets] ▪ There is a heavy military

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presence in the city. [=there are a lot of soldiers, military vehicles, etc., in the city] ▪ The company is an important *presence* on the Internet.

4 [*singular*] : a way of moving, standing, speaking, etc. ▪ He'll be remembered as a caring teacher with a warm *presence*. [=a kind and gentle way of speaking, behaving, etc.] ▪ an actor with a commanding *presence* on the stage = an actor with a commanding ***stage presence*** [=an actor with a powerful quality that attracts attention on the stage]

5 [*count*] *literary* : something (such as a spirit) that you cannot see but that you feel or believe is present — usually singular ▪ She felt a ghostly *presence* in the room.

grace (a person, group, etc.) with your presence see [2]GRACE

make your presence felt/heard/known : to make people aware of you by gaining power or influence over them ▪ Women are *making their presence felt* in the industry. ▪ The Internet service is *making its presence known* by doing a lot of advertising.

presence of mind *noun* [*noncount*] : the ability to think clearly and act quickly especially in an emergency — usually followed by *to* + verb ▪ The child had the *presence of mind to call* for an ambulance. ▪ He had the *presence of mind to write* down the license plate number of the car.

[1]pres•ent /ˈprɛzn̩t/ *noun, pl* **-ents** [*count*] : something that you give to someone especially as a way of showing affection or thanks : GIFT ▪ a birthday/Christmas/anniversary/wedding *present* ▪ Here's a *present* for you from John. ▪ I gave/got her a book as a *present*. ▪ Did you wrap the *presents*? — compare [4]PRESENT

[2]pre•sent /prɪˈzɛnt/ *verb* **-sents; -sent•ed; -sent•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to give something to someone in a formal way or in a ceremony ▪ He *presented* the queen with a diamond necklace. ▪ He was *presented* with a medal at the ceremony. ▪ She *presented* a check for $5,000 to the charity.

2 a : to formally talk about (something you have written, studied, etc.) to a group of people [+ *obj*] The scientist *presented* his results/report to the committee. ▪ She will be *presenting* a paper on methods for teaching ESL at the conference. [*no obj*] What time will you be *presenting*? **b** [+ *obj*] : to make (something) available to be used or considered ▪ The defense will *present* [=*produce*] evidence refuting the charges. ▪ An offer was *presented* for our consideration. ▪ The opportunity ***presented itself*** [=became available], and she took advantage of it.

3 [+ *obj*] : to make (something, such as a play or show) available to be seen by the public ▪ The Main Street Theater Company is *presenting* Shakespeare's *Othello* next month. ▪ The museum is *presenting* an exhibition of paintings by Monet.

4 [+ *obj*] : to show (something) to someone ▪ He *presented* his ID to the security guard. ▪ You'll be required to *present* a passport when you cross the border.

5 [+ *obj*] : to describe or show (someone or something) in a particular way ▪ No matter how the government tries to *present* what happened, it was a tragic mistake. ▪ The article *presents* an accurate picture of the contemporary lives of Japanese women. ▪ The candidate tried to *present* a more upbeat image of himself. ▪ She *presents* herself as a very ambitious person.

6 [+ *obj*] : to create (a problem, challenge, etc.) for someone or something ▪ Storing these delicate artifacts *presents* [=*poses*] a challenge for the college. ▪ The conflicting information *presents* a dilemma (for us): which numbers are correct? ▪ The shortages *presented* a serious problem to the government. = The shortages *presented* the government with a serious problem. ▪ We have been *presented* with a difficult task.

7 [+ *obj*] **a** : to introduce (someone or something) to an audience ▪ I am pleased to *present* our first comedian of the night. **b** *formal* : to introduce (someone) to a person who is important, of high rank, etc. ▪ He was *presented* as ambassador to the king.

8 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to bring (yourself) to a particular place ▪ She was ordered to *present* herself at court [=to go to court] the next day.

9 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to express (something, such as an apology) ▪ Please allow me to *present* my apologies (to you). ▪ Let me *present* my congratulations and best wishes (to you) on this happy occasion.

10 [+ *obj*] *Brit* : to introduce the different parts of (a radio or television program) ▪ She *presents* [=(*US*) *hosts*] a popular game show.

– **pre•sent•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ the *presenter* of the award ▪ The *presenter* spoke well. ▪ (*Brit*) the *presenter* [=(*US*) *host*] of the game show

[3]pres•ent /ˈprɛzn̩t/ *adj*

1 a : not past or future : existing or happening now ▪ the *present* [=*current*] situation ▪ No further changes are planned ***at the present time***. [=*now*] ▪ The game has existed in its ***present form*** for more than 300 years. **b** — used to say what someone or something is now ▪ the company's *present* [=(more commonly) *current*] employees ▪ the *present* leadership of the Senate [=the people who have positions of power in the Senate now] ▪ The ceremony honors our soldiers, ***past and present***. [=people who were soldiers in the past and people who are soldiers now]

2 a : at the particular place or event that is being referred to — often + *at* ▪ She was *present at* the meeting. — often + *in* ▪ There was a large crowd *present in* the auditorium. — sometimes used as an interjection ▪ "John Smith?" "*Present*!" [=*here*] **b** : existing in something — usually + *in* ▪ There were high levels of lead *present in* the water. [=the water contained high levels of lead]

all present and accounted for (*US*) *or Brit* ***all present and correct*** — used to say that all the people who are supposed to be at a place or event are there ▪ The students are ***all present and accounted for***.

present company excepted/excluded — used to say that a critical comment you have made about a group of people does not include the person or people you are with ▪ Men are such jerks—*present company excepted/excluded*, of course.

present writer *somewhat formal* — used to refer to yourself as the person who is writing something ▪ No one—*present writer* included—thought the plan would work. [=no one, including me, thought the plan would work] ▪ She is promoting her latest movie, which ***the present writer*** has not yet seen. [=which I have not yet seen]

[4]pres•ent /ˈprɛzn̩t/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : the period of time that exists now : the present time ▪ Past, *present*, and future are all linked together. — usually used with *the* ▪ the past, *the present*, and the future ▪ Let's leave things as they are for *the present*. We may change them in the future. ▪ I have worked here from 2000 to *the present*. ▪ Geologists believe that *the present* is the key to the past. ▪ There's ***no time like the present*** for getting things done! [=it is best to get things done right away instead of waiting until later]

2 [*count*] : the current condition or situation of someone or something — usually singular ▪ He was trying to escape his *present* by living in the past. ▪ She moved the company out of a troubled past and into a profitable *present*.

3 ***the present*** *grammar* : PRESENT TENSE ▪ The verb is in *the present*.

at present : at or during this time : at the present time : NOW ▪ Things were bad then but they're better *at present*. ▪ *At present* I am working as a substitute teacher.

– compare [1]PRESENT

pre•sent•able /prɪˈzɛntəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : in good enough condition to be seen by someone : not too dirty, messy, etc., to be seen ▪ I have to make myself *presentable* before our guests arrive. ▪ a *presentable* appearance

pre•sen•ta•tion /ˌprɛzn̩ˈteɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] : an activity in which someone shows, describes, or explains something to a group of people ▪ The charts and graphs helped me understand the *presentation*. ▪ She will take your questions after she has ***made her presentation***. ▪ The senior accountant ***gave a presentation*** at the meeting.

2 [*noncount*] : the way in which something is arranged, designed, etc. : the way in which something is presented ▪ The *presentation* of the food made it look very appetizing.

3 a : the act of giving something to someone in a formal way or in a ceremony [*noncount*] The choir sang during the *presentation of* the gifts. [*count*] The awards were given out last night, and the mayor was on hand to ***make the presentations***. [=to present the awards] **b** [*count*] : a ceremony in which something (such as an award) is given to someone in a formal way ▪ an awards *presentation*

4 [*noncount*] : the act of showing or presenting something to someone so that it can be seen or considered ▪ The state has a law that prohibits the *presentation* of new evidence 30 days after conviction.

5 [*count*] : the performance of a play ▪ We are going to see an outdoor *presentation* of the play.

6 [*count*] *medical* : the position of a baby inside its mother just before the baby is born ▪ abnormal birth *presentations*

– **pre•sen•ta•tion•al** /ˌprɛzn̩ˈteɪʃənl̩/ *adj* ▪ *presentational* skills

present day *noun*

the present day : the period of time that exists now : the present time ▪ The English of *the present day* is different from the English of the past.

– **pres•ent–day** /ˈprɛzn̩tˈdeɪ/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *present-day* [=*contemporary, modern*] English

pre•sen•ti•ment /prɪˈzɛntəmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] *formal* : a feeling or belief that something is going to happen ▪ a *presentiment* [=*premonition*] of death/danger

pres•ent•ly /ˈprɛzn̩tli/ *adv*

1 : during the time that is happening now : at the present time : NOW ▪ She is *presently* [=*currently*] at work on a new novel.

2 : after a short time : SOON ▪ He'll be here *presently*.

present participle *noun, pl* ~ **-ciples** [*count*] *grammar* : a verb form that ends in "-ing" and that is used with "be" to refer to action that is happening at the time of speaking or a time spoken of ▪ The verbs "dancing" in "He was dancing" and "crying" in "The baby is crying" are *present participles*. ✧ The present participle can also be used before a noun like an adjective. ▪ the crying baby ▪ the quickly rising tide

present perfect *noun*

the present perfect *grammar* : a verb tense that is used to refer to an action that began in the past and is completed at the time of speaking ✧ The *present perfect* in English is formed with "has" and "have" and the past participle of a verb, as in "He has left," and "They have found what they were looking for."

present tense *noun, pl* ~ **tenses** [*count*] : a verb tense that is used to refer to the present

pres•er•va•tion /ˌprɛzəˈveɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the act of preserving something: such as **a** : the act of keeping something in its original state or in good condition — often + *of* ▪ *preservation of* the city's historical buildings ▪ the *preservation of* land for wildlife ▪ (*Brit*) a ***preservation order*** [=an official order by a court that makes it illegal to destroy or change a building, tree, view, etc.] **b** : the act of keeping something safe from harm or loss ▪ wildlife *preservation* — often + *of* ▪ the *preservation of* music programs in public schools ▪ the *preservation of* cultural traditions **c** : the act of using a particular treatment on a food so that it can be eaten in the future ▪ methods of food *preservation*, such as canning and freezing

2 : the degree to which something is kept safe from harm or ruin ▪ The ancient paintings were found in a perfect ***state of preservation***. [=they were perfectly preserved] ▪ The buildings are in a good *state of preservation*. — see also SELF-PRESERVATION

pres•er•va•tion•ist /ˌprɛzəˈveɪʃənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : someone who works to preserve something (such as a building or an area of land)

pre•ser•va•tive /prɪˈzɚvətɪv/ *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count, noncount*] : a substance that is used to preserve something: such as **a** : a chemical that is added to food to keep it fresh longer ▪ This food does not contain any artificial *preservatives*. **b** : a substance that is used on wood to prevent it from decaying ▪ The wood was treated with *preservative*.

[1]pre•serve /prɪˈzɚv/ *verb* **-serves; -served; -ser•ving** [+ *obj*]

1 : to keep (something) in its original state or in good condition ▪ The committee is in charge of *preserving* [=*maintaining*] the city's historical buildings. ▪ The fossil was well *preserved*.

2 : to keep (something) safe from harm or loss : PROTECT ▪ These laws are intended to help *preserve* our natural resources. ▪ They are fighting to *preserve* their rights as citizens. ▪ a subtance that helps *preserve* wood

3 : to prevent (food) from decaying ▪ The peaches are *preserved* in syrup. ▪ Salt can be used to *preserve* meat.

– **pre•serv•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ The police should be *preservers* of law and order. — see also LIFE PRESERVER

[2]preserve *noun, pl* **-serves**

1 : a sweet food made of fruit cooked in sugar [*count*] — usually plural ▪ a jar of strawberry *preserves* [*noncount*] a jar of strawberry *preserve*

2 [*count*] : an area where plants, animals, minerals, etc., are protected ▪ nature/wildlife *preserves* [=*reserves*] ▪ Game *preserves* allow only carefully controlled hunting and fishing.

3 [*singular*] : an activity, job, interest, etc., that is available to or considered suitable for only a particular group of people ▪ The military was once an all-male *preserve*. — often + *of* ▪ Raising children used to be the (exclusive) *preserve of* women. [=used to be thought of as something done only by women]

pre•side /prɪˈzaɪd/ *verb* **-sides; -sid•ed; -sid•ing** [*no obj*] : to be in charge of something (such as a trial) ▪ Court is now in session, Justice Raul Fernandez *presiding*. — often + *at* ▪ She will *preside* as judge *at* the trial.

preside over [*phrasal verb*] ***preside over (something)*** **1** : to be in charge of something (such as a meeting or organization) ▪ The vice president *presided over* the meeting. ▪ The Chief Justice *presides over* the Supreme Court. ▪ He has *presided over* the company for 15 years. **2** : to be in charge of a country, company, etc., during (a particular time or activity) ▪ She *presided over* a period of relative peace and prosperity.

– **presiding** *adj* ▪ the *presiding* judge/officer

pres•i•den•cy /ˈprɛzədənsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies** [*count*] : the job of a president or the period of time when a person is president — usually singular ▪ candidates for the *presidency* [=people who are trying to be elected president] ▪ the third year of his *presidency*

pres•i•dent /ˈprɛzədənt/ *noun, pl* **-dents** [*count*]

1 : the head of the government in some countries ▪ The *President* will hold a news conference tomorrow. ▪ *President* Abraham Lincoln — often + *of* ▪ the *President of* the United States

2 : someone who has the highest position in an organization or business ▪ a bank/college *president* — often + *of* ▪ the *president of* the club — compare VICE PRESIDENT

– **pres•i•den•tial** /ˌprɛzəˈdɛnʃəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *presidential* candidate/election/government

president–elect *noun, pl* **-elects** [*count*] : a person who has been elected president but who has not officially become president yet

Presidents' Day *noun* [*noncount*] : the third Monday in February celebrated in most states of the U.S. as a holiday in honor of the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln — compare WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

[1]press /ˈprɛs/ *noun, pl* **press•es**

1 a [*noncount*] : newspapers, magazines, and radio and television news reports ▪ American/foreign/local *press* ▪ Reports in the *press* suggested there had been many casualties. ▪ ***freedom of the press*** [=the right of newspapers, magazines, etc., to report news without being controlled by the government] — often used before another noun ▪ The murder trial has drawn a lot of *press* coverage. ▪ *press* reports/clippings **b** ***the press*** : the people (such as reporters and photographers) who work for newspapers, magazines, etc. ▪ She refused to talk to *the press*. ▪ members of *the press* ▪ (*US*) *The press* was waiting outside the courtroom. = (*Brit*) *The press* was/were waiting outside the courtroom. — see also PRESS CONFERENCE **c** — used to talk about how often or how well or badly someone or something is described in newspapers, magazines, etc. [*noncount*] The trial has been getting a lot of *press*. [=there have been a lot of press reports about the trial] ▪ The new edition of the dictionary is getting good *press*. ▪ He has gotten a lot of bad *press* lately. [*singular*] (*Brit*) The new edition of the dictionary is getting a good *press*.

2 a [*count*] : PRINTING PRESS ▪ The pages rolled off the *presses*. ▪ Stop the *presses*! — see also *hot off the press* at [1]HOT **b** [*noncount*] : the act or the process of being printed ▪ The book is ***on press*** now and due out soon. ▪ The story is ***going to press***. [=the story is about to be printed] ▪ He did not return our call by/before ***press time***. [=the time when the story was printed] **c** [*count*] : a printing or publishing business ▪ a university *press* ▪ The book is published by Federal Street *Press*.

3 [*count*] : a machine that uses pressure to shape, flatten, or squeeze something ▪ a cookie/cider/garlic *press* ▪ a trouser *press*

4 [*count*] : the act of pushing or flattening something with your finger or hand or with a device (such as an iron) — usually singular ▪ The machine turns on with the *press* [=*push*] of a button. ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) Your shirt needs a *press*. [=your shirt needs pressing; your shirt needs to be ironed]

5 [*singular*] : a large group of people gathered together in one place : CROWD — often + *of* ▪ We were caught in the *press of* people outside the theater.

– see also FULL-COURT PRESS

[2]press *verb* **presses; pressed; press•ing**

1 a : to push (something) with strong or steady force [+ *obj*]

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She *pressed* the pieces of clay together. ▪ The machine *presses* the metal/plastic into sheets. ▪ People were *pressed* against each other in the crowd. ▪ The little girl *pressed* her face against the window. ▪ Dad took me aside and *pressed* some money into my hand. [*no obj*] He lightly *pressed* (down) on her stomach to feel the baby move. **b** : to push (something, such as a button or lever on a machine) with your finger or hand [+ *obj*] Don't *press* that button. ▪ *Press* "Play" to start the movie. [*no obj*] *Press* here to release the buckle.

2 [+ *obj*] : to force or try to persuade (someone) to do something especially by repeatedly asking for it to be done ▪ She *pressed* him to go with her to the ballet. ▪ I *pressed* her for more details. ▪ He is *pressing* [=*pressuring*] us for a decision. = He is *pressing* us to make a decision. ▪ After the scandal, the CEO was *pressed* into resigning. ▪ When *pressed*, he tends to give in.

3 [+ *obj*] : to repeat (something) often in a way that is annoying to show that it is very important ▪ I don't want to *press* [=*push*] the issue, but it is important and needs to be addressed immediately. ▪ He kept ***pressing the point*** that something needs to be done immediately. ▪ They're trying to ***press home*** their message. [=trying to make their message clear and forceful] ▪ Laborers are ***pressing their case*** for higher wages.

4 [+ *obj*] : to flatten or smooth out (something) with your hand, an iron, etc. ▪ She *pressed* the ball of dough flat. ▪ He *pressed* [=*ironed*] his shirt and pants.

5 [+ *obj*] : to push down on a fruit or vegetable to make juice come out of it ▪ He *pressed* the apples to make cider. ▪ The machine *presses* the juice out of the grapes. ▪ freshly *pressed* [=(more commonly) *squeezed*] orange juice

6 a *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to continue moving forward in a forceful or steady way ▪ The explorers *pressed* deeper into the jungle. ▪ The troops *pressed* [=*pushed*] on/forward in spite of the snow. **b** : to continue to do something especially in a determined way [*no obj*] — usually + *on* or *ahead* ▪ Now that we have answered that question, let's *press on*. ▪ The city *pressed ahead* with plans to build a casino. [+ *obj*] She saw an opening and *pressed* (home) her attack/advantage.

7 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to crowd closely around or against someone or something : to move in a large group toward or near someone or something ▪ Reporters *pressed* around/about the players as they left the field.

press charges : to take legal action against someone : to officially accuse someone of a crime ▪ He was caught shoplifting, but the store owner didn't *press charges*.

press for [*phrasal verb*] ***press for (something)*** : to make a demand for (something) ▪ Laborers are *pressing for* higher wages.

press on *also* ***press upon*** [*phrasal verb*] ***press (something) on/upon (someone)*** : to force (someone) to take or accept (something) ▪ I tried to *press* money *on* him for my half of the bill, but he refused to take it. ▪ She's always *pressing* her opinions *on* us. — see also ²PRESS 6b (above)

press (someone or something) into service : to use (someone or something) for a particular job or purpose when a special need occurs ▪ Retired doctors and nurses were *pressed into service* to help care for the wounded. ▪ The backup computer was *pressed into service* when the main computer failed.

press the flesh *informal* : to greet and shake hands with people especially while campaigning for a political office

press agency *noun, pl* ~ **-cies** [*count*] : NEWS AGENCY

press agent *noun, pl* ~ **agents** [*count*] : a person whose job is to give information about an important or famous person or organization to news reporters

press box *noun, pl* ~ **boxes** [*count*] : a special area or section of seats where reporters sit at a sports event

press clipping *noun, pl* ~ **-pings** [*count*] : CLIPPING 1

press conference *noun, pl* ~ **-ences** [*count*] : a meeting in which someone gives information to news reporters and answers questions ▪ The President will hold/give a *press conference* later today. — called also *news conference*

press corps *noun, pl* ~ **corps** [*count*] : a group of news reporters who are located in a particular place or who follow a particular person ▪ the White House *press corps*

pressed /ˈprɛst/ *adj, not used before a noun* : lacking something that is needed or desired — + *for* ▪ I am really *pressed for* time/money right now. ▪ He's *pressed for* space in his new apartment. — see also HARD-PRESSED

press gallery *noun, pl* ~ **-ler•ies** [*count*] : an area especially in a court of law where news reporters sit

press gang *noun, pl* ~ **gangs** [*count*] : a group of men who in the past would take men and force them to join the navy or army

– **press–gang** /ˈprɛsˌgæŋ/ *verb* **-gangs**; **-ganged**; **-gang•ing** [+ *obj*] — often + *into* ▪ He was *press-ganged into* the navy. [=he was forced by a press gang to join the navy] — often used figuratively in British English ▪ He was *press-ganged into* working throughout the holiday.

press•ing /ˈprɛsɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very important and needing immediate attention : URGENT ▪ a *pressing* problem/concern ▪ a *pressing* need for reform

press kit *noun, pl* ~ **kits** [*count*] : a collection of photographs, documents, etc., that is given to newspapers, magazines, television news programs, and radio stations : a package of information about someone or something that is given to the press

press•man /ˈprɛsmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] *Brit* : NEWSPAPERMAN

press office *noun, pl* ~ **-fices** [*count*] : the office of an organization (such as a political party or a government department) that gives information to newspapers, magazines, television news programs, and radio stations

press officer *noun, pl* ~ **-cers** [*count*] : a person who works in a press office

press release *noun, pl* ~ **-leases** [*count*] : an official statement that gives information to newspapers, magazines, television news programs, and radio stations

press•room /ˈprɛsˌruːm/ *noun, pl* **-rooms** [*count*]

1 : a room where someone talks to news reporters

2 : a room that contains printing presses

press secretary *noun, pl* ~ **-tar•ies** [*count*] : a person whose job is to give information about an important or famous person or organization to news reporters ▪ the White House *press secretary*

press stud *noun, pl* ~ **studs** [*count*] *Brit* : ²SNAP 3

press–up /ˈprɛsˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*] *Brit* : PUSH-UP

¹pres•sure /ˈprɛʃɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sures**

1 a : the weight or force that is produced when something presses or pushes against something else [*noncount*] Keep steady *pressure* on the cap as you turn it. [=press on the cap as you turn it] ▪ Apply *pressure* to the wound to stop the bleeding. ▪ the *pressure* of the compressed air inside the chamber ▪ high/low ***water pressure*** [=a force that makes a flow of water strong/weak] ▪ Check the car's ***tire pressure***. [=the amount of air inside the tires] ▪ The contents of the bottle are ***under pressure***. [=the contents are tightly pressed into the bottle] [*singular*] The animal's jaws can exert a *pressure* of more than 750 pounds per square inch. — see also BLOOD PRESSURE **b** [*noncount*] : the action of pressing or pushing against something ▪ The horse will respond to the slightest *pressure* of a rider's knee. ▪ The fruit yields to gentle *pressure* when it's ripe.

2 [*noncount*] : the weight of the air in the Earth's atmosphere ▪ the normal air *pressure* at sea level ▪ atmospheric *pressure* ▪ *Pressure* fell [=the air became lighter] as the storm approached. ▪ An area of ***high/low pressure*** [=heavy/light air] is moving over the west coast.

3 : the force that you feel when people are trying to persuade or force you to do something by using arguments, threats, etc. [*noncount*] He felt *pressure* from his father to become a doctor. = His father put *pressure* on him to become a doctor. [=his father was trying to persuade/force him to become a doctor] ▪ The mayor is ***under pressure*** to resign. [=people are trying to force the mayor to resign] [*count*] He gave in to the social *pressures* to act and dress like everybody else. ▪ She felt a constant *pressure* to earn more money. — see also PEER PRESSURE

4 : a feeling of stress or anxiety because you have too much to do or because people are depending on you for something [*count*] She was dealing with the *pressures* of everyday life. [*noncount*] Can he handle the *pressure* of the job? ▪ She's been experiencing a lot of *pressure* at work lately. ▪ They both work well ***under pressure***. [=they work well when the job is stressful] ▪ Her job is ***high pressure***. [=her job is very stressful] — see also HIGH-PRESSURE

²pressure *verb* **-sures**; **-sured**; **-sur•ing** [+ *obj*] *chiefly US* : to use pressure to force or try to force (someone) to do something — often followed by *into* + *-ing verb* ▪ The defense *pressured* the quarterback *into throwing* a bad pass. ▪ They *pressured* him *into resigning*. [=they forced him to resign] —

often followed by *to + verb* ▪ They're *pressuring* him *to make* a decision. ▪ They *pressured* him *to resign*. [=they tried to force him to resign by putting pressure on him] — often used as *(be) pressured* ▪ Doctors are *being pressured* by the insurance companies. ▪ She felt *pressured* to make a decision.

pressure cooker *noun, pl* ~ **-ers**
1 [*count*] : a special pot that is used to cook food quickly by using the pressure of steam
2 [*singular*] *informal* : a situation or place that causes you to feel a lot of stress or pressure ▪ The new boss has turned the office into a *pressure cooker*.
– **pressure–cooker** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ the *pressure-cooker* [=*high-pressure*] atmosphere of law school

pressure group *noun, pl* ~ **groups** [*count*] : a group of people who share an interest, concern, or set of opinions and who try to influence politics or the policies of government, business, etc. ▪ a *pressure group* trying to reduce taxes

pressure point *noun, pl* ~ **points** [*count*]
1 : a place on your body that can be pressed to stop tension or pain
2 : a place on your body where a blood vessel is near the bone and can be pressed to stop bleeding
3 : a place, area, or situation that is a source or possible source of problems : a point where pressure is applied or felt ▪ economic *pressure points*

pres•sur•ize *also Brit* **pres•sur•ise** /'prɛʃəˌraɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es**; **-ized**; **-iz•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 *technical* **a** : to press (something) tightly into a space or container ▪ A pump is used to *pressurize* the fuel. **b** : to cause the air pressure inside (something, such as an airplane) to be the same as or close to the pressure of air on the Earth's surface ▪ The system that *pressurizes* the airplane's cabin failed to operate correctly.
2 *Brit* : ²PRESSURE ▪ Don't let them *pressurize* you to do anything you don't want to do.
– **pres•sur•i•za•tion** *also Brit* **pres•sur•i•sa•tion** /ˌprɛʃərə'zeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌprɛʃəˌraɪ'zeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* ▪ airplane cabin *pressurization* – **pressurized** *also Brit* **pres•sur•ised** *adj* ▪ the airplane's *pressurized* cabin ▪ The fuel is stored in *pressurized* containers. [=containers that are designed to hold liquids, gases, etc., that are under high pressure]

pres•tige /prɛ'sti:ʒ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the respect and admiration that someone or something gets for being successful or important ▪ Her career as a diplomat has brought her enormous *prestige*. ▪ The job has low pay and low *prestige*. ▪ The family has wealth and social *prestige*.
– **pres•ti•gious** /prɛ'stɪʤəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *prestigious* college/university ▪ a *prestigious* award

pres•to /'prɛstoʊ/ *interj, US* : suddenly as if by magic ▪ A wave of the hand and, *presto* [=(*Brit*) *hey presto*], it's gone.

pre•sum•ably /prɪ'zu:məbli, *Brit* prɪ'zju:məbli/ *adv* : very likely — used to say what you think is likely to happen or be true even though you are not sure ▪ *Presumably*, he'll come later. = He'll *presumably* come later. = He'll come later, *presumably*. [=it is reasonable to think that he will come later] ▪ There was hardly any furniture in the house, *presumably* [=*probably*] because they didn't have much money.

pre•sume /prɪ'zu:m, *Brit* prɪ'zju:m/ *verb* **-sumes**; **-sumed**; **-sum•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 a : to think that (something) is true without knowing that it is true ▪ I *presume* [=*assume, expect*] (that) you'll fly to Chicago rather than drive. ▪ I *presume* (that) the car was very expensive. = The car was very expensive, I *presume*. ▪ "Is she still at work?" "I *presume* so, since she's not home." **b** : to accept legally or officially that something is true until it is proved not true ▪ A person is *presumed* (to be) innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. ▪ The court must *presume* innocence until there is proof of guilt. ▪ After the earthquake several people were missing and ***presumed dead***. [=believed to be dead]
2 *formal* : to do (something) that you do not have the right or permission to do — followed by *to + verb* ▪ How can you *presume* [=*dare*] *to speak* for her? ▪ I'm not going to *presume to tell* you how to do your job.
3 : to expect that someone has (a certain level of knowledge, skill, etc.) ▪ The course *presumes* familiarity with basic computer programming. [=people who take the course should know basic computer programming]
presume on/upon [*phrasal verb*] ***presume on/upon (something)*** *formal* : to expect too much from (a relationship) in a way that shows that you do not understand your role in the relationship : to go beyond the proper limits of (a relationship) ▪ I don't want to *presume on/upon* our friendship by asking for too many favors.

pre•sump•tion /prɪ'zʌmpʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*count*] : a belief that something is true even though it has not been proved — often + *that* ▪ The *presumption* is *that* the thief had a key to the store. ▪ There was a widespread *presumption that* she would appoint him as her successor. ▪ the *presumption that* all students learn in the same way ▪ Thousands of people used this drug ***on the presumption that*** it was safe. [=they used it because they believed that it was safe]
2 *law* : an act of accepting that something is true until it is proved not true — often + *of* [*noncount*] The trial was unfair from the beginning because there was no *presumption of* innocence. [*singular*] a defendant's right to a *presumption of* innocence
3 [*noncount*] *formal* : willingness to do something without the right or permission to do it ▪ You don't know anything about my situation, and yet you have the *presumption* [=(more commonly) *gall, nerve*] to tell me what to do!

pre•sump•tu•ous /prɪ'zʌmpʃəwəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : too confident especially in a way that is rude ▪ It would be *presumptuous* (of me) to tell the manager how to do things. : done or made without permission, right, or good reason ▪ a *presumptuous* question
– **pre•sump•tu•ous•ly** *adv* – **pre•sump•tu•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

pre•sup•pose /ˌpri:sə'poʊz/ *verb* **-pos•es**; **-posed**; **-pos•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*
1 : to be based on the idea that something is true or will happen ▪ The rule *presupposes* a need to restrict student access to the library. — often + *that* ▪ The plan *presupposes that* the state has enough money to carry it out.
2 : to require or depend on (something) in order to be true or exist ▪ Prayer *presupposes* a belief in a higher being. [=in order to pray you must believe that a higher being exists]
– **pre•sup•po•si•tion** /ˌpri:ˌsʌpə'zɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] We can't be afraid to examine/question our *presuppositions*. [=*assumptions*] ▪ The argument is based on the *presupposition* [=*presumption*] that there is life in outer space. [*noncount*] The argument is based on prejudice and *presupposition*.

pre•tax /ˌpri:'tæks/ *adj* : before taxes have been taken away from a total ▪ *pretax* profits/income/earnings/dollars

pre•teen /'pri:'ti:n/ *noun, pl* **-teens** [*count*] : a boy or girl who is 11 or 12 years old
– **preteen** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *preteen* girl/boy ▪ *preteen* clothing

¹pre•tend /prɪ'tɛnd/ *verb* **-tends**; **-tend•ed**; **-tend•ing**
1 : to act as if something is true when it is not true [+ *obj*] She *pretended* (that) she didn't care what other people said about her. ▪ I'm going to *pretend* (that) we never had this conversation. ▪ He had a big stain on his shirt, but I *pretended* not to notice. ▪ The children *pretended* to be asleep. ▪ She *pretended* to be angry. = She *pretended* (that) she was angry. ▪ He *pretended* to be blind. = He *pretended* [=(more commonly) *feigned*] blindness. ▪ I don't *pretend* to have all the answers. [=I don't claim that I have all the answers] ▪ (*formal*) He was *pretending* an emotion he really couldn't feel. [*no obj*] I don't like having to *pretend*. = I don't like *pretending*. ▪ She looked like she was enjoying the party but she was just *pretending*. ▪ It was a mistake, and to ***pretend otherwise*** would be foolish.
2 : to imagine and act out (a particular role, situation, etc.) [+ *obj*] *Pretend* (that) I'm your boss. What would you say? ▪ The children were *pretending* to be animals. ▪ He *pretended* to make a phone call. [*no obj*] Let's just *pretend* for a moment. I'm your boss. What would you say to me?
pretend to [*phrasal verb*] ***pretend to (something)*** *formal* : to claim that you have (something, such as a quality or ability) ▪ She *pretends to* a deep religious devotion, but I don't believe her. — usually used in negative statements ▪ I don't *pretend to* any expertise in these matters.
– **pretended** *adj* ▪ I wasn't fooled by her *pretended* indifference.

²pretend *adj, informal* : not real : IMAGINARY ▪ The little girl has a *pretend* [=*make-believe*] friend. ▪ The children played on a *pretend* train.

pre•tend•er /prɪ'tɛndɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : someone who claims to have the right to a particular title or position (such as king or queen) when others do not agree — usually + *to* ▪ a *pretender to* the throne

P

pre•tense (*US*) *or Brit* **pre•tence** /ˈpriːˌtɛns, *Brit* prɪˈtɛns/ *noun, pl* **-tens•es**

1 [*count*] : a false reason or explanation that is used to hide the real purpose of something : PRETEXT ▪ He called her ***under/on the pretense*** of asking about the homework assignment. [=asking about the homework assignment was not the real reason he called her] ▪ A reporter obtained documents from the company ***under false pretenses***. [=by saying something that was not true, by pretending something, etc.]

2 : an act or appearance that looks real but is false [*singular*] Their indifference is only a *pretense*. [=they are only pretending to be indifferent] ▪ We tried to keep up the *pretense* that everything was fine. ▪ She couldn't even ***make a pretense*** of liking him. [=she disliked him so much that she was unable to pretend that she liked him] [*noncount*] Their indifference is merely *pretense*. ▪ He ***abandoned/dropped all pretense at*** politeness. [=he stopped pretending or trying to be polite]

3 [*count*] *formal* : a claim of having a particular quality, ability, condition, etc. — usually singular ▪ I make no *pretense* of being a history expert. [=I do not claim/pretend to be a history expert]

pre•ten•sion /prɪˈtɛnʃən/ *noun, pl* **-sions** *formal*

1 [*noncount*] : the unpleasant quality of people who think of themselves as more impressive, successful, or important than they really are ▪ He spoke about his achievements without *pretension*. ▪ I admire his honesty and lack of *pretension*. ▪ The restaurant offers excellent food without *pretension*.

2 [*count*] : a desire to do something or a claim to be something that is impressive or important — usually plural ▪ The movie has no artistic *pretensions*. = The movie has no *pretensions* to/of being great art. [=the movie is not trying/claiming to be artistic] ▪ She has serious literary *pretensions*. [=*aspirations*]

pre•ten•tious /prɪˈtɛnʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving* : having or showing the unpleasant quality of people who want to be regarded as more impressive, successful, or important than they really are ▪ He's a *pretentious* snob. ▪ a *pretentious* restaurant/movie ▪ The houses in the neighborhood are large and *pretentious*. ▪ He uses *pretentious* language.

– **pre•ten•tious•ly** *adv* ▪ a *pretentiously* decorated hotel

– **pre•ten•tious•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

pre•ter•nat•u•ral /ˌpriːtəˈnætʃərəl/ *adj, formal* : very unusual in a way that does not seem natural ▪ He is a young man with *preternatural* [=*exceptional*] good looks. ▪ She has a *preternatural* ability to charm people. ▪ There was a *preternatural* quiet in the house.

– **pre•ter•nat•u•ral•ly** *adv* ▪ The house was *preternaturally* [=*strangely*] quiet.

pre•text /ˈpriːˌtɛkst/ *noun, pl* **-texts** [*count*] : a reason that you give to hide your real reason for doing something : PRETENSE ▪ The leaders used a minor clash at the border as a *pretext* for war. [=as a reason/excuse for starting a war] ▪ She always managed to visit him ***on*** one ***pretext*** or another. [=she found various reasons to visit him] ▪ She went back to her friend's house ***on/under the pretext that*** she had forgotten her purse.

pre•trial /ˈpriːˈtrajəl/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US, law* : before a trial ▪ *pretrial* publicity ▪ a *pretrial* hearing

pret•ti•fy /ˈprɪtəˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (something) pretty ▪ The city is trying to *prettify* its downtown.

2 *disapproving* : to make (something) seem better or more attractive than it really is ▪ The movie *prettified* what was in reality a very bloody battle.

[1]pret•ty /ˈprɪti/ *adj* **pret•ti•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]

1 a : attractive to look at usually in a simple or delicate way ▪ a *pretty* dress ▪ *pretty* flowers — used especially of a girl or woman ▪ She has a *pretty* face. ▪ I've never seen her looking so happy or so *pretty*. **b** : pleasant to look at or listen to ▪ a *pretty* sunset/room/voice/name/poem ▪ That song is *pretty*. = That's a *pretty* song. ***synonyms*** see BEAUTIFUL

2 *always used before a noun* : large or impressive ▪ He made a *pretty* profit selling his antique car. ▪ She received a *pretty* sum of money.

3 : pleasant to see or experience ▪ What a *pretty* [=*nice*] day. — usually used in negative statements ▪ The game was*n't pretty* but at least we won. ▪ It isn't going to be *pretty* when the mayor finds out his son has been arrested. ▪ The kitchen was ***not a pretty sight*** [=the kitchen was very messy] after we finished making breakfast.

4 *always used before a noun, old-fashioned* : very unpleasant ▪ What a *pretty* [=*terrible*] mess you've gotten us into! ▪ a *pretty* [=*miserable*] state of affairs

a pretty penny see PENNY

(as) pretty as a picture *old-fashioned* : very attractive or pleasant to look at : very pretty ▪ She is as *pretty as a picture*!

pretty face ✧ Someone who is ***not just a/another pretty face*** or ***more than (just) a pretty face*** is attractive but also has other good qualities, such as intelligence. ▪ If he wants to get people to vote for him, he's got to prove he's *more than just a pretty face*.

– **pret•ti•ly** /ˈprɪtəli/ *adv* ▪ She dresses/sings *prettily*. – **pret•ti•ness** /ˈprɪtinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

[2]pretty *adv*

1 : to some degree or extent but not very or extremely : FAIRLY ▪ The house was *pretty* [=*moderately, rather*] big. ▪ It's *pretty* cold outside. ▪ "Did you put the keys on the table?" "I'm *pretty* sure I did." ▪ The teams are *pretty* equally matched. ▪ The work is *pretty* hard. ▪ I have to leave *pretty* soon. ▪ The movie was *pretty* good but not great. ▪ (*US*) I'm ***pretty near/nearly*** done. [=I'm almost done]

2 : to a great degree or extent : VERY ▪ His injury was *pretty* bad. [=his injury was bad] ▪ We got *pretty* [=*quite*] close. ▪ They've accomplished some *pretty* amazing things. ▪ She was driving *pretty* fast.

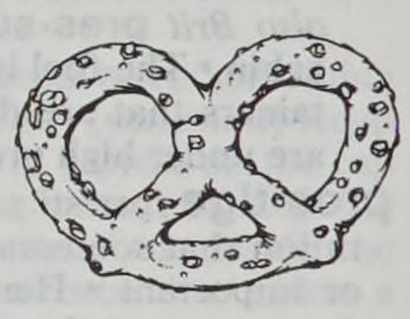
pretty much/well *informal* : not completely but mostly ▪ His ideas were *pretty much* ignored at the meeting. ▪ It is *pretty much* the same color. ▪ The engine is *pretty well* shot. [=the engine is almost completely useless] ▪ "Are you finished yet?" "*Pretty much*." [=*just about*]

sit pretty see SIT

[3]pretty *verb* **-ties**; **-tied**; **-ty•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something) pretty ▪ She *prettied* the cake with icing, sprinkles, and nuts. — usually + *up* ▪ The curtains *pretty up* the room. ▪ Landscapers *prettied* the park *up* with flowers and bushes.

pretty boy *noun, pl* ~ **boys** [*count*] *informal + disapproving* : a man who is very attractive ▪ Movie critics seem to finally agree that this *pretty boy* can act.

pret•zel /ˈprɛtsəl/ *noun, pl* **-zels** [*count*] : a long, thin piece of bread that is usually salted and shaped like a knot or stick



pretzel

pre•vail /prɪˈveɪl/ *verb* **-vails**; **-vailed**; **-vail•ing** [*no obj*] *formal*

1 : to defeat an opponent especially in a long or difficult contest ▪ Our soccer team *prevailed* [=*won*] despite the bad weather. — often + *against* or *over* ▪ He *prevailed against/over* last year's champion. ▪ She *prevailed* in a lawsuit *against* her doctor. [=she won a lawsuit against her doctor] — often used figuratively ▪ Justice will *prevail*. ▪ Truth will always *prevail* [=*triumph*] *over* lies.

2 : to be usual, common, or popular ▪ Mutual respect *prevails* among students and teachers here. ▪ The house was built in the style that *prevailed* in the 1980s.

3 : to be or continue to be in use ▪ The tribal custom still *prevails* [=*persists*] after hundreds of years. ▪ The law still *prevails* in some states.

prevail on/upon [*phrasal verb*] ***prevail on/upon (someone)*** : to ask or persuade (someone) to do something ▪ They *prevailed on/upon* me to play a few tunes on the piano.

prevailing *adj, always used before a noun* : usual, common, or popular ▪ the *prevailing* opinion/fashion ▪ She disagrees with *prevailing* [=*current*] ideas/notions about raising children. ▪ The ***prevailing wind*** in this region is from the east. [=the wind in this region usually comes from the east]

prev•a•lent /ˈprɛvələnt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : accepted, done, or happening often or over a large area at a particular time : common or widespread ▪ *prevalent* beliefs ▪ a custom that was once *prevalent* here ▪ Those teaching methods are still *prevalent* at some schools. ▪ a fashion that is *prevalent* among teenagers

– **prev•a•lence** /ˈprɛvələns/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* — usually + *of* ▪ the *prevalence of* the disease

pre•var•i•cate /prɪˈverəˌkeɪt/ *verb* **-cates**; **-cat•ed**; **-cat•ing** [*no obj*] *formal* : to avoid telling the truth by not directly answering a question ▪ Government officials *prevaricated* about the real costs of the project.

– **pre•var•i•ca•tion** /prɪˌverəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*noncount*] Please answer clearly, without *prevarication*. [*count*] You've answered with nothing but half-truths and *prevarications*.

pre•vent /prɪˈvɛnt/ *verb* **-vents**; **-vent•ed**; **-vent•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to stop (something) from happening or existing ▪ Seatbelts in cars often *prevent* serious injuries. ▪ Can exercise and a healthy diet *prevent* heart disease? ▪ The accident could have been *prevented*.
2 : to make (someone or something) not do something : to stop (someone or something) *from* doing something ▪ He grabbed my arm to *prevent* me *from* falling. ▪ Bad weather *prevented* us *from* leaving. ▪ How are you going to *prevent* him *from* finding out about the party? — often used without *from* in British English ▪ Her injury will *prevent* her competing this year.
– **pre•vent•able** /prɪˈvɛntəbəl/ *adj* ▪ Many of these deaths were *preventable*. [=*avoidable*] ▪ a *preventable* disease
– **pre•vent•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ She applied a rust *preventer* to the metal frame.

pre•ven•ta•tive /prɪˈvɛntətɪv/ *adj* : PREVENTIVE ▪ *preventative* measures
– **preventative** *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*]

pre•ven•tion /prɪˈvɛnʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the act or practice of stopping something bad from happening : the act of preventing something ▪ Exercise and diet play a role in the *prevention* of heart disease. ▪ crime/fire *prevention* ▪ (*US*) ***an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure*** = (*Brit*) ***prevention is better than cure*** [=it is better and easier to stop a problem, illness, etc., from happening than to stop or correct it after it has started]

pre•ven•tive /prɪˈvɛntɪv/ *adj* : used to stop something bad from happening ▪ Farmers are covering their crops as a *preventive* measure against frost. ▪ *preventive* medicine [=medicine that stops you from getting sick; medicine that keeps you healthy] ▪ We'll take whatever *preventive* action is necessary.
– **preventive** *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*] ▪ The drug is used as a *preventive* against cancer.

1pre•view /ˈpriːˌvjuː/ *noun, pl* **-views** [*count*]
1 : a special show or performance that allows some people to see a movie, play, etc., before it is shown to the public ▪ We saw the movie at a special *preview*. — see also SNEAK PREVIEW
2 *US* **:** a selected group of scenes that are shown to advertise a movie or television show ▪ After seeing the *preview* [=*trailer*], I can't wait to see the movie. ▪ Before the movie starts they always show *previews* of coming attractions. ▪ There are *previews* of the next week's episode at the end of each show.
3 : a description of something that will happen or be available in the future ▪ They gave a *preview* of the upcoming football season. ▪ The magazine includes a *preview* of the newest fall fashions.
4 : an example of what something will look like ▪ You can see a *preview* of the page/photo before you print it.

2preview *verb* **-views**; **-viewed**; **-view•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to see, hear, or show something (such as a movie) before it is available to the public ▪ Critics have not yet *previewed* [=*seen, watched*] the new movie. ▪ The designers will *preview* their new lines at the fashion show.
2 : to give a general description of (something that will happen in the future) ▪ They *previewed* the upcoming football season.
3 : to see an example of what something will look like ▪ You can *preview* the page/photo before you print it.

pre•vi•ous /ˈpriːvijəs/ *adj*
1 : existing or happening before the present time ▪ She has a child from a *previous* marriage. ▪ She has made *previous* attempts to quit smoking. [=she has tried to quit smoking before] ▪ No *previous* [=*past*] experience is necessary. ▪ I can't go to the party because of a *previous* [=*prior*] engagement. [=because I agreed to be somewhere else before I knew about the party]
2 a : earlier in time or order ▪ In *previous* [=*past*] years, we always went to the beach for vacation. ▪ a *previous* album/book [=an album/book made before the current album/book] ▪ The two characters met in a *previous* chapter. ▪ the *previous* owners of the house **b :** immediately before in time or order ▪ It was Tuesday, and we'd met for lunch the *previous* day. [=the day immediately before; Monday]
previous to *somewhat formal* **:** before (a time, event, etc.) ▪ I lived in Boston for a while and *previous to* [=*prior to*] that, I lived in Miami.
– **pre•vi•ous•ly** *adv* ▪ *Previously*, the state paid for the program. ▪ The author's new book includes some *previously* published material.

pre•war /ˌpriːˈwoə/ *adj* **:** happening or existing before a war; *especially* : happening or existing before World War II ▪ the *prewar* years ▪ *prewar* Europe/buildings — opposite POSTWAR

prexy /ˈprɛksi/ *also* **prex** /ˈprɛks/ *noun, pl* **prex•ies** *also* **prex•es** [*count*] *US slang* **:** PRESIDENT

1prey /ˈpreɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : an animal that is hunted or killed by another animal for food ▪ The lion stalked its *prey*. ▪ The bird circled above looking for *prey*. ▪ The seals are ***easy prey*** for sharks. — see also BIRD OF PREY
2 : someone who is easily harmed or affected in a bad way by someone or something : VICTIM ▪ Too often elderly people are ***easy prey*** for swindlers and other criminals.
be/fall prey to **1 :** to be killed by (an animal, disease, etc.) ▪ The deer *fell prey to* coyotes. ▪ Many people *fell prey to* disease. **2 :** to be harmed or affected in a bad way by (someone or something) ▪ After the accident, she *was prey to* all kinds of anxieties. ▪ Some of his friends *fell prey to* drugs. ▪ She *fell prey to* an online scam.

2prey *verb* **preys**; **preyed**; **prey•ing**
prey on/upon [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***prey on/upon (something)*** **:** to hunt and kill (something) for food ▪ The wolves *prey on* small animals. **2** ***prey on/upon (someone)*** **:** to hurt, cheat, or steal from (someone) ▪ criminals who *prey on* lonely elderly people ▪ Gangs are known to *prey on* tourists in the city. **3** ***prey on/upon someone's mind*** **:** to make someone worry : to be constantly on someone's mind ▪ Her growing debts *preyed on her mind*. [=she worried about her growing debts] ▪ The thought that he could have done better *preyed on his mind*. ▪ a question that *preys on the minds* of many of us

prez /ˈprɛz/ *noun, pl* **prez•es** [*count*] *US slang* **:** PRESIDENT

1price /ˈpraɪs/ *noun, pl* **pric•es**
1 : the amount of money that you pay for something or that something costs [*count*] oil/gas *prices* ▪ You paid a high/low/reasonable *price* for the car. ▪ We bought the house at a good *price*. ▪ Can you give me a *price* for the car? [=can you tell me how much the car costs?] ▪ If the *price* is right/reasonable, I'll buy it. = If it's the right *price*, I'll buy it. ▪ The *price* of milk rose/increased/fell/dropped. ▪ With the coupon you can buy two loaves of bread for the *price* of one. [=for the same amount of money it costs to buy one] ▪ I won't sell the house. ***Not at any price***! [=I won't sell the house no matter how much money someone offers me for it] [*noncount*] High-definition television sets should come down in *price* over the next few years. [=they should start to cost less over the next few years] ▪ What is the difference in *price* between the two cars? ▪ Children who are older than 12 years old have to pay ***full price***. [=the main or highest price] ▪ Air-conditioning is included in the car's ***base price***. [=the basic price you pay for something without adding anything extra] — often used before another noun ▪ *price* cuts/increases ▪ a *price* list for computer components — see also ASKING PRICE, CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, HALF PRICE, LIST PRICE, MARKET PRICE, PURCHASE PRICE, RESERVE PRICE, RETAIL PRICE INDEX, SELLING PRICE, STICKER PRICE
2 [*singular*] **:** the thing that is lost, damaged, or given up in order to get or do something ▪ A loss of privacy is often the *price* (you pay) for being famous. ▪ Giving up alcohol was ***a small price (to pay) for*** keeping his family together. ▪ Five years in prison is ***a high price (to pay) for*** one mistake. ▪ We won the war, but at ***what price***? [=did we lose or give up too much in order to win the war?] ▪ ***What price glory/fame***? [=is glory/fame worth what you have to lose or give up in order to get it?]
3 [*noncount*] **:** the amount of money needed to persuade someone to do something ▪ I know he said he wouldn't do it, but I think it's just a matter of finding his *price*.
a price on someone's head **:** an amount of money that will be given to anyone who kills or captures someone ▪ The group's leader has been in hiding since the government put *a price on his head*.
at any price **1 :** for any amount of money ▪ We think it's the best education you can get *at any price*. ▪ I wouldn't work for her again. Not *at any price*. **2 :** without caring about what might be lost or given up ▪ people who want peace *at any price*
at a price **1 :** by losing or giving up something or doing something unpleasant ▪ Success came *at a price*. **2 :** for a very large amount of money ▪ The chocolate is available by

mail order, but *at a price*. [=it is expensive to have the chocolate mailed to you]

beyond price *literary* : extremely valuable or important ▪ Her friendship is a treasure *beyond price*. [=a priceless treasure]

put a price on **1** : to ask for a particular amount of money for (something you are selling) ▪ The owners have not yet *put a price on* the house. **2** : to say how important or valuable something is — usually used in negative statements to say that something is extremely important and valuable ▪ You *can't put a price on* true love. ▪ The teachers there really care about the students, and I *don't* think you can *put a price on* (something like) that.

synonyms PRICE, CHARGE, COST, and FEE mean the amount of money that is asked for or given as payment for something. PRICE refers to how much money is asked for goods. ▪ What is the *price* of the car? CHARGE refers to the amount that you pay for using something or for a service. ▪ There is no *charge* for parking here. ▪ What are these phone *charges* on the bill? COST is used to refer to what is paid for something by the buyer rather than what is asked for by the seller. ▪ The *cost* of the repairs seemed very high. COST may also be used to refer to prices in general. ▪ The *cost* of living is higher in big cities. FEE refers to an amount that is set by law, a business, etc., for doing something or for a particular service. ▪ There is a $50 *fee* for the license.

²price *verb* **prices**; **priced**; **pric·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to say or decide how much something costs : to give a price to (something) ▪ They *priced* the house too high. — usually used as *(be) priced* ▪ The house *is priced* too high. ▪ The computer *is priced* at $2,000. ▪ a reasonably *priced* car ▪ high-*priced* televisions [=expensive televisions]

2 : to put a price on (something) : to attach a price tag to (something) ▪ Workers quickly *priced the* new merchandise.

3 : to learn the price of (something that you are thinking about buying) ▪ I've been *pricing* TVs [=comparing the prices of different TVs] and I know which one we should buy.

price (someone) out of the market : to make the price of something too high for (someone) ▪ The high rents are *pricing* some people *out of the market*.

price yourself out of the market : to make the price of your services, products, etc., too high ▪ If your fee is too high, you may find that you've *priced yourself out of the market*. [=people may stop wanting to pay for your services because they cost too much]

– **pricing** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The store uses low *pricing* to attract customers. ▪ The company is changing its *pricing* policy/strategy.

price–fix·ing /ˈpraɪsˌfɪksɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the usually illegal act or practice of agreeing with business competitors to set prices at a particular level instead of allowing prices to be determined by competition

price·less /ˈpraɪsləs/ *adj*

1 : extremely valuable or important : INVALUABLE ▪ The painting is *priceless*. ▪ a *priceless* piece of information ▪ Good health is *priceless*.

2 *informal* : very funny ▪ The look on his face was *priceless*.

price point *noun, pl* ~ **points** [*count*] *business* : a product's regular price as set by the manufacturer

price tag *noun, pl* ~ **tags** [*count*]

1 : a piece of paper or plastic that is attached to a product and that has the product's price written or printed on it ▪ The *price tag* is missing so I don't know how much this sweater costs.

2 : the amount of money that something costs ▪ The car has a $30,000 *price tag*. = The car has a *price tag* of $30,000. [=the price of the car is $30,000] ▪ The equipment carries a ***hefty price tag***. [=it is expensive] ▪ You can't ***put a price tag on*** the safety of our children. [=the safety of our children is worth any amount of money; it is extremely important]

price war *noun, pl* ~ **wars** [*count*] : a situation in which companies or stores compete with each other by lowering their prices on goods or services in order to attract more customers ▪ The airlines are engaged in another *price war*.

pricey *also* **pricy** /ˈpraɪsi/ *adj* **pric·i·er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : EXPENSIVE ▪ The car is a little *pricey*. ▪ a *pricey* restaurant/store

¹prick /ˈprɪk/ *verb* **pricks**; **pricked**; **prick·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to make a very small hole in (something) with a sharp pointed object ▪ She *pricked* her finger with a pin. = The pin *pricked* her (finger). ▪ The nurse *pricked* my finger and squeezed out a drop of blood.

2 a [+ *obj*] : to cause a sharp, painful feeling on or in (part of your body) ▪ The sharp shells *pricked* the bottoms of our feet. **b** *literary* ✧ If ***tears prick your eyes***, you begin to feel tears in your eyes.

3 [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) feel guilt, shame, regret, etc. ▪ She was *pricked* by doubt/guilt/jealousy. ▪ The photographs of the flood victims ***pricked my conscience*** [=made me feel guilty] and I knew I had to do something to help. ▪ His ***conscience pricked him***. [=he felt guilty; he felt that he had done something wrong]

4 *of an animal* : to cause (the ears) to point upward [+ *obj*] The dog *pricked* (*up*) its ears at the sound. [*no obj*] The dog's ears *pricked up* at the sound. — used figuratively of people ▪ Her ***ears pricked (up)*** when they said her name. = She ***pricked up her ears*** [=she started to listen carefully] when they said her name.

²prick *noun, pl* **pricks** [*count*]

1 : an act of making a small hole in something with a sharp pointed object ▪ The nurse gave my finger a (little) *prick* (with a needle) and squeezed out a drop of blood.

2 a : a feeling of pain caused by being touched by something sharp or pointed ▪ She felt a *prick* as the thorn jabbed her foot. ▪ He felt the *prick* of the needle. **b** : a slight, sharp feeling *of* sadness, regret, etc. ▪ She felt a *prick of* jealousy. ▪ He felt a ***prick of conscience***. [=a feeling of guilt]

3 *informal* + *offensive* : PENIS

4 *informal* + *offensive* : a very bad or unpleasant man

¹prick·le /ˈprɪkəl/ *noun, pl* **prick·les** [*count*]

1 : one of usually many stiff, sharp points that grow on some plants : THORN ▪ vines covered in *prickles*

2 : a slight, sharp feeling *of* an emotion ▪ She felt a *prickle of* fear as the stranger came closer to her. ▪ He felt the familiar *prickle of* excitement as the game began.

²prickle *verb* **prickles**; **prick·led**; **prick·ling** : to cause or experience an unpleasant feeling that is like the feeling of having many small, sharp points against your skin [+ *obj*] The burrs were *prickling* my arm. ▪ The wool sweater *prickled* my skin. [*no obj*] My skin *prickled* with fear. ▪ The hair *prickled* on the back of my neck. ▪ She felt a *prickling* sensation in her shoulder.

prick·ly /ˈprɪkli/ *adj* **prick·li·er**; **-est**

1 : having many sharp points ▪ a *prickly* cactus/bush ▪ The plant's leaves are *prickly*.

2 a : caused or seeming to be caused by something that has many small, sharp points ▪ a *prickly* feeling/sensation **b** : causing a prickly feeling on your skin ▪ a *prickly* wool sweater

3 : very difficult or complicated : requiring careful treatment ▪ a *prickly* [=*sensitive*] issue ▪ a *prickly* [=*thorny*] question

4 : easily annoyed or angered ▪ He's a *prickly* old man. ▪ a *prickly* [=*touchy*] personality

– **prick·li·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

prickly heat *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a skin rash that people sometimes get during hot weather : HEAT RASH ▪ suffering from *prickly heat*

prickly pear *noun* [*count, noncount*] : a cactus that has yellow flowers and fruits shaped like pears; *also* : the fruit of this plant

pricy *variant spelling of* PRICEY

¹pride /ˈpraɪd/ *noun, pl* **prides**

1 [*noncount*] **a** : a feeling that you respect yourself and deserve to be respected by other people : SELF-RESPECT ▪ Being able to work again gave him his *pride* back. ▪ Getting caught cheating stripped him of his *pride*. ▪ *Pride* would not allow her to give up. ▪ It's a matter of *pride* that he does the work all by himself. **b** : a feeling that you are more important or better than other people ▪ The novel is about a family consumed with *pride* and vanity. ▪ They needed help, but their *pride* wouldn't let them ask for it. ▪ I had to ***swallow my pride*** and admit I made a mistake.

2 a : a feeling of happiness that you get when you or someone you know does something good, difficult, etc. [*noncount*] The sight of her son holding the trophy filled her with *pride*. [=made her very proud] ▪ She spoke with *pride* [=she spoke proudly] about her son's achievements. ▪ She looked at her painting with *pride*. [=*satisfaction*] ▪ He ***takes pride in*** [=is proud of] his work. [*singular*] He showed a great/immense *pride* in his family. **b** [*singular*] : a person or thing that makes you feel proud ▪ These young people are the *pride* of their community.

3 [*count*] : a group of lions

pride and joy : someone or something that makes you very proud and happy ▪ Our children are our *pride and joy*. ▪ The car is his *pride and joy*.

pride of place : the highest position or best place ▪ The Nobel Prize winner was given *pride of place* at the conference. ▪ The statue has *pride of place* in the center of town. ▪ A picture of their children took *pride of place* on the wall.

– **pride·ful** /ˈpraɪdfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *US* ▪ a *prideful* [=*proud*] parent ▪ He was too *prideful* to accept their help. – **pride·ful·ly** *adv, US*

²pride *verb* **prides**; **prid·ed**; **prid·ing**

pride yourself on : to be proud because of having (an ability, quality, etc.) ▪ I *pride myself on* my math skills. [=I am proud of my math skills] ▪ The restaurant *prides itself on* having the best pizza in town.

priest /ˈpri:st/ *noun, pl* **priests** [*count*] : a person who has the authority to lead or perform ceremonies in some religions and especially in some Christian religions ▪ He was ordained as a Roman Catholic *priest*. ▪ a parish *priest*

priest·ess /ˈpri:stəs/ *noun, pl* **-ess·es** [*count*] : a woman who leads or performs religious ceremonies in some religions ▪ a tribal *priestess*

priest·hood /ˈpri:stˌhʊd/ *noun, pl* **-hoods**

1 ***the priesthood*** : the job of being a priest ▪ He is ***entering the priesthood***. [=becoming a priest] ▪ He decided to ***leave the priesthood***. [=stop being a priest]

2 : a group of priests in a particular religion [*count*] an ancient civilization that was ruled by a *priesthood* [*noncount*] What is the influence of the *priesthood* in today's society?

priest·ly /ˈpri:stli/ *adj* **priest·li·er**; **-est** : of or relating to a priest or to priests as a group ▪ the *priestly* class ▪ *priestly* robes/vows ▪ *priestly* power : like a priest ▪ He is a kind, *priestly* man.

prig /ˈprɪg/ *noun, pl* **prigs** [*count*] *disapproving* : someone who annoys people by being very careful about proper behavior and by criticizing the behavior of other people ▪ She is too much of a *prig* for my liking.

– **prig·gish** /ˈprɪgɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ She is too *priggish*. ▪ *priggish* people – **prig·gish·ly** *adv* – **prig·gish·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

prim /ˈprɪm/ *adj* **prim·mer**; **prim·mest** [*or more* ~; *most* ~]

1 *sometimes disapproving* **a** : very formal and proper ▪ a *prim* manner ▪ He has *prim* views on religion. **b** : easily shocked or upset by rude behavior, comments, etc. ▪ a *prim* [=*prudish*] young lady ▪ Her aunts were very ***prim and proper***.

2 : very neat in appearance ▪ a *prim* little house

– **prim·ly** *adv* ▪ She was *primly* dressed. ▪ She spoke to him *primly*. – **prim·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

pri·ma ballerina /ˈpri:mə-/ *noun, pl* ~ **-nas** [*count*] : the main female dancer in a ballet company

pri·ma·cy /ˈpraɪməsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the state of being most important or strongest ▪ Civil law took *primacy* over religious law. ▪ She has established *primacy* in her field of study. — often + *of* ▪ He believes in the *primacy of* the family over the state.

pri·ma don·na /ˌprɪməˈdɑ:nə, *Brit* ˌpri:məˈdɒnə/ *noun, pl* ~ **-nas** [*count*]

1 : the main female singer in an opera company : DIVA

2 *disapproving* : a person who thinks she or he is better than everyone else and who does not work well as part of a team or group ▪ The actress is a temperamental *prima donna*. ▪ We are looking for team players, not *prima donnas*.

primaeval *Brit spelling of* PRIMEVAL

pri·ma fa·cie /ˌpraɪməˈfeɪʃə, *Brit* ˌpraɪməˈfeɪʃi/ *adj, always used before a noun, law* : based on what is known or seen when something is first considered or dealt with ▪ a *prima facie* case ▪ There is strong *prima facie* evidence that she committed perjury. [=when we look at the situation now, there is strong evidence that she committed perjury, although it is possible that we will find out that she did not commit perjury when we learn more]

pri·mal /ˈpraɪməl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : very basic and powerful — used especially to describe feelings that are like the feelings of animals and that seem to come from a part of human nature that has existed since ancient times ▪ *primal* urges/instincts

pri·mar·i·ly /praɪˈmerəli, *Brit* ˈpraɪmərəli/ *adv* — used to indicate the main purpose of something, reason for something, etc. ▪ The game is designed *primarily* [=*mainly*] for younger children. ▪ They seemed *primarily* [=*mostly*] interested in getting rich.

¹pri·ma·ry /ˈpraɪˌmeri, *Brit* ˈpraɪməri/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 a : most important : MAIN ▪ our *primary* [=*principal*] objective/goal ▪ The economy was the *primary* focus of the debate. ▪ Your safety is our *primary* [=*foremost*] concern. **b** : most basic or essential ▪ *primary* needs ▪ The family is the *primary* social unit of human life. ▪ The *primary* function of our schools is to educate our young people. — compare SECONDARY, TERTIARY

2 : happening or coming first ▪ the *primary* [=*initial*] stage of a civilization ▪ We just started our *primary* flight training. — compare SECONDARY, TERTIARY

3 : not coming from or dependent on something else ▪ The book is based mainly on *primary* sources rather than secondary sources.

4 *chiefly Brit* : relating to the education of young children ▪ *primary* [=(*US*) *elementary*] education/teachers

²primary *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] *US* : an election in which members of the same political party run against each other for the chance to be in a larger and more important election ▪ a presidential *primary* — called also (*US*) *primary election*

primary care *noun* [*noncount*] : medical care from the doctor who sees a patient first and provides basic treatment or decides that the patient should see another doctor ▪ He provides *primary care* to inner-city patients. ▪ (*US*) a *primary care* physician/provider

primary color (*US*) *or Brit* **primary colour** *noun, pl* ~ **-ors** [*count*] : one of the three colors red, yellow, or blue which can be mixed together to make other colors — compare SECONDARY COLOR

primary school *noun, pl* ~ **schools** : a school for young children [*count*] a new *primary school* [=(*US*) *elementary school*, (*US*) *grade school*] [*noncount*] She goes to *primary school*. — compare SECONDARY SCHOOL

pri·mate /ˈpraɪˌmeɪt/ *noun, pl* **-mates** [*count*]

1 : any member of the group of animals that includes human beings, apes, and monkeys

2 *or* ***Primate*** *formal* : the highest ranking priest in a particular country or area in some Christian churches (such as the Church of England) ▪ the *Primate* of England and Wales

¹prime /ˈpraɪm/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : most important : PRIMARY ▪ our *prime* responsibility ▪ The wine industry is of *prime* importance to the California economy. ▪ The police have not yet named the *prime* suspect in the murder investigation.

2 : of the highest quality or value : EXCELLENT ▪ *prime* beef ▪ The house is expensive because it's in a *prime* location. ▪ *prime* farmland

3 — used to say that someone or something is a very good example of a particular kind of person or thing ▪ The melting of ice caps is a ***prime example*** of the effects of global warming. ▪ Orson Welles is a *prime example* of the movie director as artist. ▪ a ***prime specimen*** of a racehorse

4 : most likely or very likely to be chosen for something, to experience something, etc. ▪ The mayor has become a *prime* target for criticism. ▪ Her father was unhealthy and looked like a *prime* candidate for a heart attack. [=he looked like someone who was likely to have a heart attack]

²prime *noun*

1 [*singular*] : the period in life when a person is best in health, strength, etc. : the most active or successful time of a person's life ▪ young college graduates ***in the prime of life*** ▪ She just retired, but she's still ***in her prime***. [=still active and in good health] ▪ He was a great pitcher once, but he's ***past his prime***. [=is no longer as good as he was when he was younger]

2 [*noncount*] *technical* : PRIME RATE ▪ The interest rate is two percent plus/over *prime*.

³prime *verb* **primes**; **primed**; **prim·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (someone) ready to do something : PREPARE ▪ She was obviously *primed* for the questions at the press conference. ▪ Both teams are *primed* for battle and ready to play.

2 : to make (something) ready for use ▪ *prime* a bomb/gun ▪ *prime* a pump ▪ *prime* an engine

3 : to cover (a surface) with special paint in order to prepare it for the final layer of paint ▪ We sanded and *primed* the woodwork before painting.

prime the pump : to do something that will help a thing to grow or develop ▪ The government has to *prime the pump* to get the economy going. ▪ That sort of language will only *prime the pump* for an ugly argument later.

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prime interest rate *noun, pl* ~ **rates** [*count*] : PRIME RATE

prime meridian *noun*
the prime meridian : an imaginary line that runs from the North Pole to the South Pole through Greenwich, England

prime minister *or* **Prime Minister** *noun, pl* ~ **-ters** [*count*] : the head of the government in some countries • the *Prime Minister* of England — abbr. *PM*

prime mover *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a person or thing that starts something or that has a very powerful influence on something • She was the *prime mover* behind the town's annual summer festival.

prime number *noun, pl* ~ **-bers** [*count*] *mathematics* : a number (such as 2, 3, or 5) that can only be exactly divided by itself and by 1

[1]prim•er /ˈprɪmɚ, *Brit* ˈpraɪmə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 *chiefly US* : something (such as a book) that provides basic information on a particular subject • The article is an excellent *primer* on foreign policy.
2 : a small book that helps teach children how to read
– compare [2]PRIMER

[2]prim•er /ˈpraɪmɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count, noncount*] : a kind of paint that is used to prepare a surface for a final layer of a different paint — compare [1]PRIMER

prime rate *noun, pl* ~ **rates** [*count*] : the lowest interest rate that banks will give to people who borrow money from them — called also *prime, prime interest rate*

prime time *noun* [*noncount*]
1 a : the time in the evening when the largest number of people are watching television • The program is being shown during *prime time*. • a *prime-time* program **b** : the television shows that are on during prime time • He's the best actor in *prime time*.
2 *chiefly US, informal* : the highest or most difficult level of use • This software isn't ready for *prime time*. [=it is not yet good enough to be used; it has problems that need to be corrected]

pri•me•val *also Brit* **pri•mae•val** /praɪˈmiːvəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : very old or ancient • *primeval* forests • the forest *primeval*
2 *formal* : basic and powerful : PRIMAL • our *primeval* instincts

[1]prim•i•tive /ˈprɪmətɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : of, belonging to, or seeming to come from an early time in the very ancient past • the time when *primitive* man first learned to use fire • *primitive* animals/plants [=animals/plants that lived in ancient times or that have not changed much since ancient times]
2 : not having a written language, advanced technology, etc. • *primitive* societies/cultures
3 : very simple and basic : made or done in a way that is not modern and that does not show much skill • *primitive* [=*crude*] tools • The technology they used was *primitive* and outdated. • The camp had only a *primitive* outdoor toilet.
4 : coming from the part of a person that is wild or like an animal : not based on reason • *primitive* instincts/feelings/fears
– **prim•i•tive•ly** *adv* – **prim•i•tive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[2]primitive *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*] *formal*
1 : an artist who makes art in a simple style that is childlike; *also* : the art made by such an artist • The museum is known for its collection of American *primitives*.
2 *old-fashioned* : someone who belongs to a primitive society • a Stone Age *primitive*

pri•mo /ˈpriːmoʊ/ *adj, US slang* : of the best quality : EXCELLENT • I found a *primo* parking space right out front.

pri•mor•di•al /prɪˈmoɚdijəl/ *adj, formal* : existing from the beginning of time : very ancient • *primordial* gases in space • *primordial* [=*primeval*] forests

primp /ˈprɪmp/ *verb* **primps**; **primped**; **primp•ing** : to try to make yourself more attractive by making small changes to your clothes, hair, etc., especially while looking at yourself in a mirror [*no obj*] The girls spent hours *primping* in front of the mirror. [+ *obj*] He *primped* his hair while waiting for his date.

prim•rose /ˈprɪmˌroʊz/ *noun, pl* **-ros•es** [*count*] : a small plant with flowers that are usually a pale yellow color
primrose path : an easy way of living or proceeding that will lead to problems later • The mayor is leading us down a/the *primrose path* by refusing to maintain the roads and only repairing them after they fail.

prince /ˈprɪns/ *noun, pl* **princ•es** [*count*]
1 a : a male member of a royal family; *especially* : the son or grandson of a king or queen **b** : a male ruler or monarch in some countries • the *Prince* of Monaco
2 : a man who is the best in his class, profession, etc. — usually singular • He was the *prince* of poets. • He is a *prince* among men. [=he is a very good man]

Prince Charming *noun* [*singular*] *often humorous* : a man who is handsome, brave, polite, etc., and would be a perfect husband or boyfriend • She was still waiting to meet her *Prince Charming*. • He's no *Prince Charming*, but he's okay.

prince•ly /ˈprɪnsli/ *adj*
1 : very large or impressive • a *princely* gift • Their summer house cost a ***princely sum***. [=their summer house was very expensive]
2 : of, relating to, or suitable for a prince • a display of *princely* courtesy • *princely* duties

prin•cess /ˈprɪnsəs, *Brit* ˌprɪnˈsɛs/ *noun, pl* **-cess•es** [*count*]
1 : a female member of a royal family; *especially* : a daughter or granddaughter of a king or queen
2 : the wife of a prince • *Princess* Diana
3 *informal + sometimes disapproving* : a usually attractive girl or woman who is treated with special attention and kindness • a pop music *princess* • She's just a stuck-up *princess*.

[1]prin•ci•pal /ˈprɪnsəpəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : most important : CHIEF • Vegetables are the *principal* ingredients in this soup. • My *principal* [=*main*] reason for moving is to have a shorter drive to work. • She is the *principal* cellist of the orchestra.
– **prin•ci•pal•ly** /ˈprɪnsəpəli/ *adv* • He is *principally* [=*chiefly, mainly*] known as a composer.

[2]principal *noun, pl* **-pals** [*count*]
1 a *US* : the person in charge of a public school • the new high school *principal* **b** *Brit* : the person in charge of a university or college
2 : an amount of money that is put in a bank or lent to someone and that can earn interest — usually singular • Our monthly mortgage payment covers the interest on our loan as well as some of the *principal*.
3 a : the main performer in a group of performers • The ballet featured the two *principals*. [=lead dancers] **b** : the most important person in a group • One of the *principals* in the assassination plot has been arrested.

Do not confuse *principal* with *principle*.

prin•ci•pal•i•ty /ˌprɪnsəˈpæləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*count*] *formal* : a small area or country that is ruled by a prince

principal parts *noun* [*plural*] *grammar* : the main forms of a verb • The *principal parts* of the verb "write" include the infinitive "write," the past tense "wrote," the past participle "written," and the present participle "writing."

prin•ci•ple /ˈprɪnsəpəl/ *noun, pl* **-ciples**
1 : a moral rule or belief that helps you know what is right and wrong and that influences your actions [*count*] He has good *principles*. • It's ***against my principles*** to cheat. [=I believe that cheating is wrong] [*noncount*] As ***a matter of principle***, he would not accept the gift. [=he did not feel that it was right to accept the gift] • She refused ***on principle*** [=because of her beliefs] to give toy guns to the children.
2 [*count*] : a basic truth or theory : an idea that forms the basis of something • well-established economic *principles* • His investment strategy is based on the *principle* that the stock market offers the best returns for long-term investors.
3 [*count*] : a law or fact of nature that explains how something works or why something happens • the basic *principles* of hydraulics/magnetism
in principle **1** — used to say that something which has not yet happened or been done should be possible according to what is known • *In principle*, making the changes should be a simple matter, but there may be problems we haven't thought of. **2** : in a general way and without giving attention to details • They accepted the offer *in principle*.

Do not confuse *principle* with *principal*.

prin•ci•pled /ˈprɪnsəpəld/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having, based on, or relating to strong beliefs about what is right and wrong • a *principled* person [=a person who has strong moral principles; a person who tries to do what is morally right] • She took a *principled* stand/position on funding public education.

[1]print /ˈprɪnt/ *verb* **prints**; **print•ed**; **print•ing**
1 : to cause (words, images, etc.) to appear on paper or cloth

by using a machine (called a printer) [+ *obj*] We *printed* 50 invitations before we ran out of ink. ▪ Could you *print* (up) another copy of last quarter's report? ▪ The new machine *prints* 30 pages per minute. ▪ Your tickets are being *printed* now. ▪ a slogan *printed* on a bumper sticker ▪ We *printed* the new logo on the T-shirts. = We *printed* the T-shirts with the new logo. [*no obj*] Your tickets are *printing* now. ▪ This printer allows you to *print* on both sides of a sheet of paper.

2 [+ *obj*] : to use a machine (called a printing press) to produce (books, newspapers, magazines, etc.) ▪ They *printed* 10,000 copies of the book's new edition.

3 [+ *obj*] : to include (something) in a book, newspaper, magazine, etc. : PUBLISH ▪ I'm surprised they *printed* that cartoon/story in the paper. ▪ Her picture was *printed* in a magazine last month.

4 : to write (something) using separate letters that do not join together [+ *obj*] *Print* your name and address in the space provided. [*no obj*] Once you learn how to *print*, then you can move on to cursive writing.

5 [+ *obj*] : to produce (a photograph) on paper ▪ Please *print* two copies of all the pictures on that roll. ▪ Our vacation pictures are on my computer, but I haven't *printed* them yet.

a license to print money see [1]LICENSE

print out *also* ***print off*** [*phrasal verb*] ***print (something) out/off*** *or* ***print out/off (something)*** : to produce a paper copy of (a document that is on a computer) ▪ Could you *print out* another copy for me? — see also PRINTOUT

– **printed** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *printed* documents ▪ Fewer people these days are getting their news from the ***printed page/word***. [=from newspapers, magazines, books, and other printed sources]

[2]print *noun, pl* **prints**

1 [*noncount*] : the process of making a book, magazine, newspaper, etc. ▪ The editor's job is to prepare the manuscript ***for print***. [=for publication] ▪ He was glad to get one of his poems ***into print***. [=into a published magazine, book, etc.] ▪ Her first novel is still ***in print***. [=her first novel is still being printed for sale] ▪ His biography has been ***out of print*** for years. [=his biography is no longer being printed] ▪ When is the book scheduled to ***go to print***? [=when is the book supposed to be sent to the printer?]

2 [*noncount*] : the letters, numbers, or symbols used in printing something : TYPE ▪ books with large *print* = large-*print* books [=books with large letters for people who have difficulty seeing] ▪ What is the *print* size of your book? — see also FINE PRINT, SMALL PRINT

3 [*count*] **a** : a photograph that is printed on paper ▪ black-and-white *prints* ▪ She bought a *print* [=a photographic copy] of the painting for her room. **b** : a picture made from pressing an inked surface on paper ▪ a woodblock *print* ▪ an exhibit of 16th-century German *prints*

4 [*count*] : a mark made on the surface of something: such as **a** : FINGERPRINT ▪ The detectives found his *prints* on the wine glass. ▪ Police dusted the house for *prints*. **b** : FOOTPRINT ▪ A muddy *print* on the sidewalk matched the tread on the suspect's boots.

5 [*count*] : cloth that has a pattern printed on it ▪ The fabric store had a variety of plaids and *prints* available. ▪ a floral *print* dress

[3]print *adj, always used before a noun* : of, relating to, or writing for books, magazines, newspapers, etc. ▪ *print* journalists/journalism ▪ *print* ads/media

print•able /ˈprɪntəbəl/ *adj*

1 : suitable to be printed or published ▪ The paper's editor isn't looking for a great article, just something *printable*. ▪ The coach yelled insults at his team, none of which are *printable*. [=the words he used were too offensive to be shown in print]

2 : able to be printed by using a computer's printer ▪ There are *printable* maps on the Web site.

printed circuit *noun, pl* ~ **-cuits** [*count*] *technical* : a circuit that uses thin strips of metal on a thin board to carry electricity

print•er /ˈprɪntɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a machine that is used for printing documents, photographs, etc. ▪ I need a new *printer* for my office. — see picture at OFFICE; see also INK-JET PRINTER, LASER PRINTER

2 : a person or company whose business is printing books, magazines, etc. ▪ Benjamin Franklin was originally a *printer*. ▪ The manuscript was sent to the *printer* yesterday.

print•ing /ˈprɪntɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 [*noncount*] : the process of producing books, magazines, etc. by using machinery ▪ color *printing* ▪ a *printing* error

2 [*count*] : the act or process of printing a set number of copies of a book at one time ▪ The book is already in its second *printing*, and a third printing is scheduled for later this year. ▪ The book has had two *printings* of 100,000 copies each.

3 [*noncount*] : handwriting that uses separate letters that do not join together ▪ Her *printing* is very neat.

printing press *noun, pl* ~ **press•es** [*count*] : a machine that prints books, magazines, newspapers, etc., usually in large numbers

print•out /ˈprɪntˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*] : a copy of a document produced by a printer ▪ She gave me a *printout* of the directions. ▪ a computer *printout* — see also *print out* at [1]PRINT

[1]pri•or /ˈpraɪɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : existing earlier in time : PREVIOUS ▪ *prior* approval ▪ in *prior* years ▪ Do you have a *prior* history of back problems? ▪ The job requires *prior* experience in advertising. ▪ The defendant had a *prior* record of convictions. ▪ I'm sorry, but we have a *prior* commitment and can't come tonight. ▪ The contract was canceled ***without prior notice***. [=the contract was canceled right away]

2 *formal* : more important than something else because it came first ▪ We have a *prior* claim to the estate.

prior to *somewhat formal* : before (a time, event, etc.) ▪ *Prior to* dinner, photographs of the wedding party will be taken. ▪ My parents were married just *prior to* the war.

[2]prior *noun, pl* **-ors** [*count*]

1 a : a monk who is the head of a religious house or order **b** : a priest whose rank is just below that of an abbot

2 *US, informal* : a previous time of being arrested for or found guilty of a crime ▪ The suspect has two *priors* for robbery. [=the suspect had been arrested/convicted twice before for robbery]

pri•or•ess /ˈprajərəs/ *noun, pl* **-ess•es** [*count*] : a nun who is head of a religious house or order

pri•or•i•tize *also Brit* **pri•or•i•tise** /praɪˈorəˌtaɪz/ *verb* **-tiz•es; -tized; -tiz•ing**

1 : to organize (things) so that the most important thing is done or dealt with first [+ *obj*] It's always difficult to *prioritize* work, school, and family. [*no obj*] If you want to do your job efficiently, you have to learn to *prioritize*.

2 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) the most important thing in a group ▪ The town council hopes to *prioritize* the bridge construction project at the next meeting.

pri•or•i•ty /praɪˈorəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*count*] : something that is more important than other things and that needs to be done or dealt with first ▪ Reorganizing the sales force will be a top *priority* for the new president. ▪ Getting the work done on time is a *priority* for me. ▪ Exercising is not very high on her list of *priorities*. [=it's not among the things she thinks are important]

2 ***priorities*** [*plural*] *US* : the things that someone cares about and thinks are important ▪ He has terrible *priorities*. [=he doesn't care about the things that are truly important] ▪ You need to ***get your priorities straight*** and go back to school. [=you need to realize that going back to school is the most important thing for you to do] ▪ She decided to go to the party instead of studying? ***Where are her priorities***?

3 [*noncount*] : the condition of being more important than something or someone else and therefore coming or being dealt with first ▪ These problems are important and should be ***given priority*** (over others). [=they should be dealt with first] ▪ I know you want to buy a new stereo, but right now, saving for college has to ***take priority***. ▪ Health concerns should ***have priority*** over comfort. [=health concerns are more important than comfort]

pri•o•ry /ˈprajəri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] : a place where a group of monks or nuns live : a religious house that is under the direction of a prior or prioress

prism /ˈprɪzəm/ *noun, pl* **prisms** [*count*] : a transparent glass or plastic object that usually has three sides and that separates the light that passes through it into different colors — often used figuratively to describe a way of looking at or thinking about something that causes you to see or understand it in a different way ▪ The novel is a history of early 19th-century America told ***through the prism of*** one life.

pris•mat•ic /prɪzˈmætɪk/ *adj, technical* : using, containing, or shaped like a prism ▪ a *prismatic* lens ▪ *prismatic* crystals

pris•on /ˈprɪzn̩/ *noun, pl* **-ons**

1 : a building where people are kept as punishment for a crime or while they are waiting to go to court [*count*] a

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state/federal *prison* ▪ The state plans to build two more *prisons*. [*noncount*] He was ***in prison*** at the time. ▪ If caught, they're all ***going to prison***. ▪ She was ***sent/sentenced to prison*** for robbery. ▪ He was ***released from prison***. ▪ He's scheduled to get ***out of prison*** next month. — often used before another noun ▪ a *prison* cell ▪ a *prison* guard ▪ an investigation into *prison* conditions ▪ an overhaul of the *prison* system ▪ *prison* reform ▪ the *prison* population ▪ an eight-year *prison* sentence/term ▪ ***prison time*** [=the time someone spends in prison] ***synonyms*** see [1]JAIL

2 [*count*] : a place or situation from which you cannot escape ▪ Her marriage became a *prison* to her.

prison camp *noun, pl* ~ **camps** [*count*] : a camp where a large group of prisoners are kept especially during a war

pris·on·er /'prɪzn̩ɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a person who is kept in a prison ▪ The *prisoners* [=*inmates*] have two hours of exercise per day. ▪ a ***political prisoner*** [=a person put in prison because of his or her political beliefs]

2 : a person who has been captured and is being kept somewhere ▪ He was captured by rebel forces and kept as their *prisoner* for several months before they set him free. ▪ They ***took him prisoner***. = He was ***taken prisoner***. [=they captured him and made him their prisoner] ▪ The families were ***held/kept prisoner*** for four days. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ She's a *prisoner* of her fears. [=she is controlled by her fears]

take no prisoners : to deal with the people you are competing with or trying to defeat in a very harsh way without mercy ▪ He *takes no prisoners* when it comes to running the business. — see also TAKE-NO-PRISONERS

prisoner of conscience *noun, pl* **prisoners of conscience** [*count*] : someone who is held in prison because of his or her political or religious beliefs

prisoner of war *noun, pl* **prisoners of war** [*count*] : a soldier who has been captured during a war by the enemy — called also *POW*

pris·sy /'prɪsi/ *adj* **pris·sier**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *informal + disapproving* : having or showing the annoying attitude of people who care too much about dressing and behaving properly and who are easily upset by other people's behavior, language, etc. ▪ She was too *prissy* to wear jeans. ▪ a *prissy* do-gooder

– **pris·si·ly** /'prɪsəli/ *adv* – **pris·si·ness** /'prɪsinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

pris·tine /'prɪˌsti:n/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : in perfect condition : completely clean, fresh, neat, etc. ▪ My office is a mess but her office is always *pristine*. ▪ He was wearing a *pristine* white shirt. ▪ The car is 10 years old but it's still in ***pristine condition***. [=it still looks the way it did when it was new]

2 : not changed by people : left in its natural state ▪ a *pristine* forest

pri·va·cy /'praɪvəsi, *Brit* 'prɪvəsi/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the state of being alone : the state of being away from other people ▪ She went upstairs for some *privacy*. ▪ I don't care about what you do in the *privacy* of your own home. [=I don't care what you do when you are at home by yourself or with your family]

2 : the state of being away from public attention ▪ Celebrities have a right to *privacy*. ▪ She felt that the guard's request to search her was an ***invasion of (her) privacy***. [=she felt the search did not respect her privacy]

[1]pri·vate /'praɪvət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : for the use of a single person or group : belonging to one person or group : not public ▪ a *private* beach/club/property ▪ He returned to the country on his *private* [=*personal*] jet. ▪ It was the first time many had seen works from the artist's *private* collection. ▪ a room with a ***private bath*** [=a bathroom that is not shared between several rooms]

2 : not relating to a person's official position or job ▪ At work he was always very serious, but in his *private* life, he was actually very funny and relaxed.

3 a : not known by the public or by other people : SECRET ▪ *private* dealings/meetings ▪ Please keep all my personal information *private*. ▪ They shared a ***private joke***. [=a joke only understood by the few people who know what it refers to]

b : not telling others about yourself : keeping your personal information secret ▪ He's a very *private* person.

4 : away from other people : out of the sight and hearing of other people ▪ Let's go somewhere *private*. ▪ They were sitting in a *private* corner of the restaurant.

5 *always used before a noun* : not holding a public or elected office ▪ *private* individuals ▪ a ***private citizen***

6 a : not paid for or controlled by the government ▪ tax policies to encourage *private* industry ▪ a *private* hospital/college ▪ The mayor hired a *private* contractor rather than using city workers to do the job. **b** : not having stocks traded on the open market ▪ a *private* company

7 : involving or done with a single person rather than a group ▪ She had years of *private* piano study/lessons. ▪ *private* students [=students who are given private lessons]

– **pri·vate·ly** *adv* ▪ a *privately* held/owned company ▪ The two leaders met *privately* to discuss trade policy.

[2]private *noun, pl* **-vates**

1 [*count*] : a person of the lowest rank in the U.S. or British Army or the U.S. Marines

2 *privates* [*plural*] *informal* : PRIVATE PARTS

in private : out of the sight and hearing of other people : in a private place ▪ We would like to speak to you *in private*. [=*privately*] ▪ The group always met *in private*.

private enterprise *noun* [*noncount*] : FREE ENTERPRISE

pri·va·teer /ˌpraɪvə'tiɚ/ *noun, pl* **-teers** [*count*] : a ship used in the past to attack and rob other ships; *also* : a sailor on a privateer

private investigator *noun, pl* ~ **-tors** [*count*] : someone who works as a detective and who is not a member of a police force ▪ She hired a *private investigator* to follow her husband. — called also *private detective*, (*informal*) *private eye*

private member *noun, pl* ~ **-bers** [*count*] *Brit* : a member of the British House of Commons who is not a minister in the government

private member's bill *noun, pl* ~ **bills** [*count*] *Brit* : a bill prepared or introduced in the British House of Commons by a private member

private parts *noun* [*plural*] *informal* : a person's external sexual organs — used as a polite way of referring to the sexual organs without having to say their names ▪ He used a towel to cover his *private parts*. — called also *privates*

private patient *noun, pl* ~ **-tients** [*count*] *Brit* : a person who gets and pays for medical treatment outside of the National Health Service

private practice *noun, pl* ~ **-tices** : a professional business (such as that of a lawyer or doctor) that is not controlled or paid for by the government or a larger company (such as a hospital) [*noncount*] After years as attorney general, he returned to *private practice*. ▪ He is now ***in private practice***. [*count*] She left the hospital clinic and now has a *private practice*.

private school *noun, pl* ~ **schools** [*count*] : a school that does not get money from the government and that is run by a group of private individuals — compare PUBLIC SCHOOL

private sector *noun* [*singular*] : the part of an economy which is not controlled or owned by the government ▪ The *private sector* is growing. ▪ *private-sector* businesses/gains — compare PUBLIC SECTOR

pri·va·tion /praɪ'veɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** *formal* : a lack or loss of the basic things that people need to live properly [*noncount*] The country has suffered through long periods of economic *privation*. [*count*] the *privations* of poverty

pri·vat·ize *also Brit* **pri·vat·ise** /'praɪvəˌtaɪz/ *verb* **-iz·es**; **-ized**; **-iz·ing** [+ *obj*] : to remove (something) from government control and place it in private control or ownership ▪ The city decided to *privatize* the municipal power company. ▪ a proposal to *privatize* the health-care system — opposite NATIONALIZE

– **pri·vat·i·za·tion** *also Brit* **pri·vat·i·sa·tion** /ˌpraɪvətə'zeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌpraɪvəˌtaɪ'zeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *privatization* of health care

priv·et /'prɪvət/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a bush with green leaves that is often used for hedges

[1]priv·i·lege /'prɪvlɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-leg·es**

1 [*count*] : a right or benefit that is given to some people and not to others ▪ The prisoner's exercise *privileges* were taken away. [=the prisoner was no longer allowed to exercise] ▪ Good health care should be a right and not a *privilege*.

2 [*singular*] : a special opportunity to do something that makes you proud ▪ Meeting the President was a *privilege*. [=*honor*] ▪ We had the *privilege* of being invited to the party. ▪ I had the *privilege* of knowing your grandfather.

3 [*noncount*] *somewhat formal* : the advantage that wealthy and powerful people have over other people in a society ▪ He lived a life of wealth and *privilege*. ▪ children of *privilege* [=privileged children; children from wealthy families with high social status]

4 [*noncount*] : the right to keep important information private ▪ attorney-client *privilege* [=the right an attorney has to keep information shared by a client secret] ▪ During the investigation, the President invoked ***executive privilege***.

5 [*noncount*] *Brit* : the right to say or do something without being punished for it ▪ parliamentary *privilege*

²privilege *verb* **-leges**; **-leged**; **-leg·ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to give an advantage that others do not have to (someone or something) ▪ The new tax laws unfairly *privilege* the rich.

privileged *adj*

1 [*more ~; most ~*] *sometimes disapproving* : having special rights or advantages that most people do not have ▪ He comes from a very *privileged* background. ▪ The town attracts people who are wealthy and *privileged*. ▪ The President's adviser has a *privileged* position of trust. ▪ She had *privileged* access to the files. ▪ Only ***the privileged few*** can become members of the club. ▪ I ***was privileged*** to be part of the winning team. [=I had the good fortune of being part of the winning team]

2 *law* : known only by the people who need to know ▪ *privileged* [=*confidential*] information

¹privy /ˈprɪvi/ *adj*

privy to : allowed to know about (something secret) ▪ I wasn't *privy to* their plans. [=I didn't know about their plans]

²privy *noun, pl* **priv·ies** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a small outdoor building that is used as a toilet

Privy Council *noun*

the Privy Council : the group of people chosen by the British king or queen to serve as advisers

privy purse *noun*

the privy purse : the amount of money given to the British king or queen for personal expenses

¹prize /ˈpraɪz/ *noun, pl* **priz·es** [*count*]

1 : something that is won in a contest or given as an award ▪ $500 was the *prize* for first place. ▪ She won a *prize* for guessing correctly how many jelly beans there were in the jar. ▪ He won first/second/third *prize*. ▪ The ***grand prize*** [=the best prize] of the drawing went to his daughter. — see also BOOBY PRIZE, CONSOLATION PRIZE, DOOR PRIZE, NOBEL PRIZE, PULITZER PRIZE

2 : something that is very valuable or desirable and that is difficult to get ▪ This picture would be the *prize* of any museum's collection.

²prize *adj, always used before a noun*

1 a : given as an award or prize ▪ *prize* money **b** : winning a prize ▪ a *prize* [=(more commonly) *prizewinning*] essay ▪ the *prize* pig

2 : very good or impressive : deserving an award or prize ▪ Dad brought back his *prize* catch, a three-foot striped bass. ▪ a *prize* student

3 *Brit, informal* : real or complete ▪ I felt a *prize* fool for making such a stupid mistake.

³prize *verb* **prizes**; **prized**; **priz·ing** [+ *obj*] : to value (someone or something) very highly ▪ I know that you *prize* our friendship. ***synonyms*** see APPRECIATE — compare ⁴PRIZE

⁴prize (*US*) *or Brit* **prise** /ˈpraɪz/ *verb* **priz·es**; **prized**; **priz·ing** [+ *obj*] *somewhat formal* : to open or move (something) with a tool ▪ I tried to *prize* [=(*US*) *pry*] the lid off the jar. ▪ She *prized* the door open with the crowbar. — often used figuratively ▪ He tried to *prize* the information out of me. [=he tried to force me to give him the information] — compare ³PRIZE

prized *adj, always used before a noun* : very valuable or important ▪ These are some of my *prized* possessions. ▪ She was a highly *prized* employee.

prize·fight /ˈpraɪzˌfaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-fights** [*count*] : a fight between two professional boxers for money

– **prize·fight·er** /ˈpraɪzˌfaɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

– **prize·fight·ing** /ˈpraɪzˌfaɪtɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He wrote a history of American *prizefighting*.

prize–giving *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] *Brit* : a ceremony at which prizes are awarded

prize·win·ner /ˈpraɪzˌwɪnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ners** [*count*] : someone or something that wins a prize

– **prize·win·ning** /ˈpraɪzˌwɪnɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *prizewinning* director ▪ a *prizewinning* recipe

¹pro /ˈproʊ/ *noun, pl* **pros** [*count*] : an argument for something : a reason to do something — usually plural ▪ Make a list of the *pros* and a list of the cons and then compare them. ▪ The *pros* outweigh the cons. [=there are more advantages than disadvantages] ▪ Congress weighed the ***pros and cons*** of the new tax plan. [=the arguments for and against the new tax plan]

2 : a person who supports or is in favor of something ▪ When the new law was proposed, we began hearing arguments from both the *pros* and the cons. [=from the people who supported it and the people who opposed it]

– compare ³PRO

²pro *adv* : in favor of something ▪ Much was written ***pro and con*** about the law. [=both for and against the law]

³pro *noun, pl* **pros** [*count*]

1 : someone who is paid to participate in a sport or activity : PROFESSIONAL ▪ tennis/golf *pros* ▪ He just ***turned pro*** this year. [=he just became a professional this year]

2 : someone who has a lot of experience or skill in a particular job or activity ▪ He is a *pro* when it comes to household repairs. ▪ She handled that tricky situation like an ***old pro***.

the pros *US, somewhat informal* : the professional level of competition in a sport ▪ He is playing in *the pros* now.

– compare ¹PRO

⁴pro *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : paid to participate in a sport or activity : PROFESSIONAL ▪ a *pro* athlete/wrestler

2 : done by people who are paid to play or compete in a sport or activity : PROFESSIONAL ▪ *pro* football/basketball

pro- *prefix* : in favor of : supporting — often used with a hyphen ▪ *pro*-Democracy — opposite ANTI-

pro·ac·tive /proʊˈæktɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : controlling a situation by making things happen or by preparing for possible future problems ▪ A survey was given out to customers so that the company could take *proactive* steps to improve their service. ▪ The city is taking a *proactive* approach to fighting crime by hiring more police officers. — compare REACTIVE

– **pro·ac·tive·ly** *adv* ▪ Regular exercise is one way to fight heart disease *proactively*.

pro–am /ˈproʊˈæm/ *noun, pl* **-ams** [*count*] : an event or tournament in which both professionals and amateurs compete

– **pro–am** *adj, always before a noun* ▪ a *pro-am* tournament/race

prob·a·bil·i·ty /ˌprɑːbəˈbɪlɚti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 : the chance that something will happen [*count*] The *probability* [=*likelihood*] of an earthquake is low/high. ▪ There is a low/high *probability* that you will be chosen. [*noncount*] There is some *probability* of rain tomorrow.

2 [*singular*] : something that has a chance of happening ▪ With the dark clouds moving in, rain seems more like a *probability* than a possibility.

3 : a measure of how often a particular event will happen if something (such as tossing a coin) is done repeatedly [*count*] The *probability* of a coin coming up heads is one out of every two tries. [*noncount*] the laws of *probability*

in all probability : almost certainly : very likely ▪ *In all probability*, he will go home tomorrow. ▪ We will contact you, *in all probability*, next week.

prob·a·ble /ˈprɑːbəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : likely to happen or to be true but not certain ▪ a *probable* result/explanation ▪ His account of what happened is more *probable* than not. [=his account of what happened is probably true] ▪ It is *probable* that life exists outside of our planet.

probable cause *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US, law* : evidence that gives someone a reason to think that a crime has been or is being committed ▪ The lawyer argued that there was a lack of *probable cause* for a search warrant. ▪ The police had *probable cause* to arrest him.

prob·a·bly /ˈprɑːbəbli/ *adv* : very likely : almost certainly ▪ It will *probably* rain today. ▪ They will *probably* be here soon. ▪ You are *probably* right. ▪ It was *probably* the best concert I've ever been to. ▪ There were *probably* about 150 people at the wedding. ▪ "Are you going to the picnic?" "*Probably*." ▪ "Can you finish painting the room today?" "*Probably* not."

¹pro·bate /ˈproʊˌbeɪt/ *noun* [*noncount*] *law*

1 : the process of proving in court that the will of a person who has died is valid ▪ Her will was offered for *probate* by the relatives.

2 : PROBATE COURT ▪ The case will now go to *probate*.

²probate *verb* **-bates**; **-bat·ed**; **-bat·ing** [+ *obj*] *US, law* : to prove that (a will) is valid before a probate court ▪ The court will *probate* the will. ▪ The will was *probated*.

probate court *noun, pl* **~ courts** [*count, noncount*] *US, law* : a court that proves wills are valid

pro·ba·tion /proʊˈbeɪʃən/ *noun*

1 : a situation or period of time in which a person who is starting a new job is tested and watched to see if that person is able to do the job properly [*noncount*] As a new employee, I will be ***on probation*** for three months. [*singular*] There is a three-month *probation* (period) for new employees.
2 [*noncount*] *law* : a situation or period of time in which a person who has committed a crime is allowed to stay out of prison if that person behaves well, does not commit another crime, etc. ▪ He hoped that the judge would grant him *probation*. ▪ He was sentenced to one year's *probation*. ▪ He was sent back to prison for violating his *probation*. ▪ She was arrested while ***on probation***.
3 [*noncount*] *US* : a situation or period of time in which a person who has made a serious mistake or done something bad is watched and must behave well in order not to be seriously punished ▪ Instead of firing her, they ***put/placed her on probation***. ▪ The student was *placed on probation* for copying test answers.

probation officer *noun, pl* ~ **-cers** [*count*] *law* : a person who is in charge of watching, working with, and helping people who have been placed on probation

[1]probe /ˈproʊb/ *verb* **probes**; **probed**; **prob•ing**
1 : to ask a lot of questions in order to find secret or hidden information about someone or something [*no obj*] His questions made it clear he was *probing* for information. ▪ He didn't like the police *probing* into his past. ▪ Firefighters are still *probing* [=*looking*] for the cause of the fire. [+ *obj*] He didn't like the police *probing* him about his past.
2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to touch or reach into (something) by using your finger, a long tool, etc., in order to see or find something ▪ The doctor *probed* the wound with his finger. ▪ Searchers *probed* the mud with long poles. **b** : to look into or examine (something) carefully ▪ She *probed* the files for evidence that would help the investigation.
– **probing** *adj* ▪ The reporter asked a lot of *probing* questions. ▪ Her father gave her a *probing* look. ▪ a *probing* mind

[2]probe *noun, pl* **probes** [*count*]
1 : a careful examination or investigation of something ▪ The FBI *probe* did not produce any new evidence.
2 : a thin, long instrument that is used especially for examining parts of the body
3 : SPACE PROBE

pro•bi•ty /ˈproʊbəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the quality of a person who is completely honest ▪ a person of *probity*

[1]prob•lem /ˈprɑːbləm/ *noun, pl* **-lems**
1 [*count*] : something that is difficult to deal with : something that is a source of trouble, worry, etc. ▪ Racism and sexism are major social *problems*. ▪ The company is having financial *problems*. ▪ She has a drug *problem*. [=she is addicted to drugs] ▪ He has chronic health/medical *problems*. ▪ She has a weight *problem*. [=her weight is not healthy] ▪ The mechanic fixed the *problem* with the car. ▪ There are a few *problems* with your argument. ▪ We have to find a way to solve this *problem*. ▪ She is bothered by family/personal/marriage *problems*. ▪ We didn't have any *problems* getting here. ▪ I have my own *problems* to deal with. ▪ Mosquitoes are a *problem* in the summer. ▪ When he drinks too much, he causes *problems*. ▪ The *problem* with you is that you're too stubborn. ▪ We would love to have a dog. ***The only problem is (that)*** [=the reason that would be difficult is] we don't have the time to take care of it. ▪ The fact that you're late is ***not my problem***. [=I am not responsible for helping you deal with the problem of being late]
2 [*singular*] **a** : difficulty in understanding something ▪ I'm having a *problem* following your argument. **b** : a feeling of not liking or wanting to do something ▪ "We'll have to leave a little early." "OK, I don't ***have a problem with*** that." [=that doesn't bother me] ▪ "He says he won't go." "***What's his problem?***" [=why is he being so unreasonable?]
3 [*count*] : a mathematical question to be solved ▪ a math *problem* ▪ Solve these *problems* for homework.
no problem *also* ***not a problem*** *informal* — used to say that you are happy to do something or that you are not bothered by something ▪ "Thanks for your help." "*No problem*." ▪ "I'm sorry for interrupting you." "*No problem*." ▪ "Can you get this done by lunchtime?" "*No problem*." ▪ "I would like to pay with my credit card." "*Not a problem*."

[2]problem *adj, always used before a noun* : difficult to deal with ▪ a ***problem child***

prob•lem•at•ic /ˌprɑːbləˈmætɪk/ *also* **prob•lem•at•i•cal** /ˌprɑːbləˈmætɪkəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : difficult to understand, solve, or fix ▪ a *problematic* [=*puzzling*] situation ▪ Rules of grammar are more *problematic* for non-native speakers.

problem–solving *noun* [*noncount*] : the process or act of finding a solution to a problem ▪ Let's do some *problem-solving* and see if we can't figure out what to do. ▪ mathematical *problem-solving* ▪ *problem-solving* skills

pro bono /ˌproʊˈboʊnoʊ/ *adj, always used before a noun, law* : involving or doing legal work for free ▪ *pro bono* work ▪ a *pro bono* case/lawyer
– **pro bono** *adv* ▪ The lawyer defended him *pro bono*. [=for free]

pro•bos•cis /prəˈbɑːsəs/ *noun, pl* **-bos•cis•es** *also* **-bos•ci•des** /-ˈbɑːsəˌdiːz/ [*count*]
1 *biology* : the long, thin nose of some animals (such as an elephant)
2 *biology* : a long, thin tube that forms part of the mouth of some insects (such as a butterfly)
3 *humorous* : a person's nose especially when it is very long or big

pro•ce•dure /prəˈsiːʤɚ/ *noun, pl* **-dures**
1 : a series of actions that are done in a certain way or order : an established or accepted way of doing something [*count*] Installing a car battery is a simple *procedure*. ▪ What is the *procedure* for applying for a loan? ▪ New employees are taught the proper safety *procedures*. [*noncount*] We must follow proper court/legal/parliamentary *procedure*. ▪ An identity check is standard police *procedure*.
2 [*count*] : a medical treatment or operation ▪ the *procedure* for treating a burn ▪ surgical *procedures* ▪ The *procedure* will take two hours.
– **pro•ce•dur•al** /prəˈsiːʤərəl/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* ▪ *procedural* steps ▪ Congress will vote on a *procedural* matter/bill.

pro•ceed /proʊˈsiːd/ *verb* **-ceeds**; **-ceed•ed**; **-ceed•ing**
1 [*no obj*] **a** : to continue to do something ▪ After the interruption, she *proceeded* with her presentation. ▪ "Before we *proceed* further, does anyone have any questions?" ▪ We will *proceed* according to plan. ▪ We may not be able to *proceed* as planned. ▪ How should we *proceed*? ▪ After inspecting the house, the couple decided to *proceed* [=*go ahead*] with the sale. ▪ When we've finished this part of the project, we can *proceed* [=*go on*] to the next step. **b** : to continue being done ▪ The problems have been fixed and the work can now *proceed*. ▪ The work is *proceeding* [=*going*] well.
2 [+ *obj*] : to do something after you have done something else — often used to describe behavior that is surprising, annoying, etc.; followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ He said he didn't have much time and then *proceeded to spend* the next half hour talking about his vacation.
3 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] *formal* : to go or move in a particular direction ▪ All passengers must *proceed* to the baggage claim area. ▪ The crowd *proceeded* toward the exits. ▪ The troops *proceeded* north along the river.
proceed against [*phrasal verb*] ***proceed against (someone)*** *law* : to start a legal case against (someone) ▪ They threatened to *proceed against* him.
proceed from [*phrasal verb*] ***proceed from (something)*** *formal* : to come from (a source) ▪ Strange noises *proceeded from* the house.

pro•ceed•ing /proʊˈsiːdɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**
1 [*count*] *law* : the process of appearing before a court of law so a decision can be made about an argument or claim : a legal action ▪ a court *proceeding* — usually plural ▪ bankruptcy/divorce/criminal *proceedings* ▪ The bank is undertaking legal *proceedings* against him.
2 *proceedings* [*plural*] **a** : things that are said or done at a meeting, conference, ceremony, etc. ▪ The secretary kept a record of the *proceedings* at/of the meeting. ▪ She started the *proceedings* with a brief welcoming speech. **b** *formal* : an official record of the things said or done at a meeting, conference, etc. ▪ The *proceedings* of the conference will be published.

pro•ceeds /ˈproʊˌsiːdz/ *noun* [*plural*] : the total amount of money or profit that is made ▪ The *proceeds* of the concert will go to charity. ▪ Half the *proceeds* will be donated to the church. ▪ He took the *proceeds* from the sale of his business and invested in stocks.

[1]pro•cess /ˈprɑːˌsɛs, *Brit* ˈprəʊˌsɛs/ *noun, pl* **-cess•es** [*count*]
1 : a series of actions that produce something or that lead to a particular result ▪ costly manufacturing *processes* ▪ How

does the election *process* work? ▪ Learning a foreign language can be a long/slow/difficult *process*. ▪ We're remodeling our house. The whole *process* is expected to take a few months. ▪ She figured out who he was by the ***process of elimination***. [=by considering and rejecting each possible choice until only one was left] — see also DUE PROCESS

2 : a series of changes that happen naturally ▪ the *process* of growth ▪ the aging *process* ▪ Breathing and the circulation of blood are life *processes*.

3 *medical* : something that sticks out of something else ▪ a bony *process* on the foot

in process : being worked on or done ▪ The book is still *in process*.

in the process **1** : while doing something ▪ He scored the goal but was injured *in the process*. **2** ✧ If you are ***in the process of*** doing something, you are doing something that takes a certain amount of time to do. ▪ I am *in the process of* buying a new car/house.

²process *verb* **-cesses**; **-cessed**; **-cess•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to change (something) from one form into another by preparing, handling, or treating it in a special way ▪ Food is often *processed* before it is packaged and sold. ▪ He brought the film to be *processed*. [=*developed*] ▪ The sewage plant *processes* waste. **b** : to deal with (something, such as an official document or request) by using a particular method or system ▪ Her job includes *processing* insurance claims. ▪ Your application will be *processed* in 5 to 10 business days.

2 : to take in and use (information) ▪ Computers *process* data. ▪ The brain *processes* the information that is taken in by our senses. ▪ It took me a minute to *process* [=*understand*] what he was saying.

– **processing** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ food *processing* ▪ the *processing* of insurance claims ▪ information *processing* — see also DATA PROCESSING, WORD PROCESSING

pro•ces•sion /prə'sɛʃən/ *noun, pl* **-sions**

1 : an organized group or line of people or vehicles that move together slowly as part of a ceremony [*count*] a funeral/wedding *procession* ▪ There was a *procession* of children carrying candles. [*noncount*] The cars moved ***in procession*** to the cemetery.

2 [*count*] : a number of people or things that come or happen one after another : SERIES — + *of* ▪ We have had a *procession of* visitors today. ▪ The new employee had a *procession of* meetings to go to.

¹pro•ces•sion•al /prə'sɛʃənl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of, relating to, or used for a procession ▪ *processional* music

²processional *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*]

1 : a piece of music that is played during a procession ▪ a wedding *processional*

2 : PROCESSION 1 ▪ He led a slow *processional* into the church.

pro•ces•sor /'prɑ:ˌsɛsɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sors** [*count*]

1 : a machine, company, etc., that treats, prepares, or handles something ▪ a film *processor* ▪ the largest seafood *processor* in the country ▪ a film *processor* — see also FOOD PROCESSOR

2 : CPU — see also MICROPROCESSOR, WORD PROCESSOR

pro–choice /proʊ'ʧɔɪs/ *adj* : believing that pregnant women should have the right to choose to have an abortion ▪ *pro-choice* supporters/groups ▪ The governor has taken a *pro-choice* position. = The governor is *pro-choice*. — compare PRO-LIFE

pro•claim /proʊ'kleɪm/ *verb* **-claims**; **-claimed**; **-claim•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to say or state (something) in a public, official, or definite way : to declare or announce (something) ▪ She *proclaimed* that she will run for governor. ▪ The President *proclaimed* a national day of mourning. ▪ He took command of the government and *proclaimed* himself emperor. ▪ The magazine *proclaimed* him to be the best player in baseball. ▪ He *proclaimed* his love for her in a poem. ▪ She continues to *proclaim* her innocence. [=to say that she is innocent]

2 *formal* : to show (something) clearly ▪ His behavior *proclaimed* his good upbringing.

proc•la•ma•tion /ˌprɑ:klə'meɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** *somewhat formal*

1 : the act of saying something in a public, official, or definite way : the act of proclaiming something [*count*] No one believed her *proclamations* of innocence. [=her statements that she was innocent] [*noncount*] the *proclamation* of martial law

2 [*count*] : an official statement or announcement made by a person in power or by a government ▪ The President issued a *proclamation* which freed the slaves.

pro•cliv•i•ty /proʊ'klɪvəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*count*] *formal* : a strong natural liking for something that is usually bad : a tendency to do something that is usually bad — usually singular ▪ Why do some people have a *proclivity* for violence? [=why are some people violent?] ▪ She has a *proclivity* [=*tendency*] to assume the worst. ▪ He shows no *proclivity* towards aggression. [=he is not aggressive]

pro•cras•ti•nate /prə'kræstəˌneɪt/ *verb* **-nates**; **-nat•ed**; **-nat•ing** [*no obj*] : to be slow or late about doing something that should be done : to delay doing something until a later time because you do not want to do it, because you are lazy, etc. ▪ He *procrastinated* and missed the submission deadline. ▪ He told her to stop *procrastinating* and get to work.

– **pro•cras•ti•na•tion** /prəˌkræstə'neɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She is not prone to *procrastination*. – **pro•cras•ti•na•tor** /prə'kræstəneɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ Some people are *procrastinators* when it comes to paying their bills.

pro•cre•ate /'proʊkriˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [*no obj*] *formal* : to produce children or offspring : REPRODUCE ▪ Animals have a natural instinct to *procreate*.

– **pro•cre•ation** /ˌproʊkri'eɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

proc•tor /'prɑ:ktɚ/ *verb* **-tors**; **-tored**; **-tor•ing** *US* : to watch students who are taking an examination [+ *obj*] Volunteers *proctored* [=(*Brit*) *invigilated*] the exam. [*no obj*] Teachers volunteered to *proctor*.

– **proctor** *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ The *proctor* [=(*Brit*) *invigilator*] will collect the exams when time is up.

pro•cure /prə'kjɚ/ *verb* **-cures**; **-cured**; **-cur•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*

1 : to get (something) by some action or effort : OBTAIN ▪ She managed to *procure* a ticket to the concert. ▪ The CIA believes the group is *procuring* weapons. ▪ They still need to *procure* a marriage license.

2 : to find or provide (a prostitute) for someone ▪ He was charged with illegally *procuring* young women for wealthy clients.

– **pro•cur•able** /prə'kjɚəbəl/ *adj* ▪ easily *procurable* goods – **pro•cure•ment** /prə'kjɚmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *procurement* of materials and supplies ▪ Birth certificates are needed for *procurement* of a marriage license. – **pro•cur•er** /prə'kjɚɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ The company is the largest *procurer* of building materials in the area.

¹prod /'prɑ:d/ *verb* **prods**; **prod•ded**; **prod•ding**

1 : to push someone or something with your finger or a pointed object : POKE [+ *obj*] She *prodded* him in the ribs to get his attention. [*no obj*] — often + *at* ▪ He *prodded at* the snake with a stick.

2 [+ *obj*] : to persuade or try to persuade (someone) to do something ▪ His parents kept *prodding* [=*urging*] him to go back to school. ▪ She was *prodded* into joining the team.

– **prodding** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He didn't need any *prodding* to try again.

²prod *noun, pl* **prods** [*count*]

1 a : the act of pushing someone or something with your finger or a pointed object : POKE ▪ She gave him a sharp *prod* in the back. **b** : something (such as a long stick) that is used to prod an animal ▪ He picked up a stick and used it as a *prod* to get the donkey moving. — see also CATTLE PROD

2 : something said or done to encourage or remind someone to do something ▪ He needed a few *prods* to remember his lines. ▪ She called me and ***gave me a prod*** about finishing the report.

prod•i•gal /'prɑ:dɪgəl/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : carelessly and foolishly spending money, time, etc. ▪ a *prodigal* spender ▪ a *prodigal* lifestyle

prodigal son/daughter : a son/daughter who leaves his or her parents to do things that they do not approve of but then feels sorry and returns home — often used figuratively ▪ He left the company several years ago, but now the *prodigal son* has returned.

– **prodigal** *noun, pl* **-gals** [*count*] ▪ The *prodigal* [=*prodigal son/daughter*] has returned.

pro•di•gious /prə'dɪʤəs/ *adj, formal*

1 : amazing or wonderful : very impressive ▪ a *prodigious* achievement/effort/talent

2 : very big ▪ a *prodigious* amount

– **pro•di•gious•ly** *adv, formal* ▪ He is *prodigiously* talented/wealthy.

prod•i•gy /'prɑ:dəʤi/ *noun, pl* **-gies** [*count*] : a young per-

son who is unusually talented in some way ▪ child *prodigies* ▪ a chess/tennis/math *prodigy*

[1]pro•duce /prə'du:s, *Brit* prə'dju:s/ *verb* **-duc•es**; **-duced**; **-duc•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to make (something) especially by using machines ▪ The factory *produces* [=*manufactures*] steel. ▪ Thousands of cars are *produced* here each year. — see also MASS-PRODUCE **b** : to make or create (something) by a natural process ▪ The tree *produces* good fruit. ▪ Honey is *produced* by bees. ▪ twins *produced* from a single egg

2 [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to exist or happen : to cause (a particular result or effect) ▪ The insect bite *produced* a rash. ▪ His suggestion *produced* the desired results.

3 [+ *obj*] : to be the source of (something or someone) : to be the place where (something or someone) comes from ▪ The region *produces* large amounts of cotton and tobacco. ▪ The college has *produced* some well-known scientists.

4 : to be in charge of making and usually providing the money for (a play, movie, television show, record, etc.) [+ *obj*] She is *producing* her first play/film. ▪ He has *produced* many albums. ▪ He *produced* and directed the movie. [*no obj*] On most of her movies, she both *produces* and directs.

5 [+ *obj*] **a** : to show (something) : to cause (something) to appear or be seen ▪ He *produced* his ID for the security guard. ▪ He suddenly *produced* a gun and told the cashier to hand over all the money. **b** : to provide (something that is wanted or needed) ▪ They could not *produce* evidence that proved he was at the scene of the crime. ▪ He'll be in trouble if he doesn't *produce* the money he owes them.

[2]pro•duce /'proʊˌdu:s, *Brit* 'prɒˌdju:s/ *noun* [*noncount*] : fresh fruits and vegetables ▪ fresh/local/organic *produce*

pro•duc•er /prə'du:sɚ, *Brit* prə'dju:sə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : someone who is in charge of making and usually providing the money for a play, movie, record, etc. ▪ a record *producer* ▪ the *producer* of the play ▪ He is the director and *producer*.

2 : someone or something that grows or makes particular goods or products ▪ wine *producers* ▪ the nation's grain *producers* ▪ The country is the world's leading oil *producer*.

prod•uct /'prɑ:ˌdʌkt/ *noun, pl* **-ucts**

1 : something that is made or grown to be sold or used [*count*] dairy/software *products* ▪ my favorite skin-care *products* ▪ The company's newest *product* is selling well. [*noncount*] (*technical*) The company needs to find a way to sell more *product*. — often used before another noun ▪ *product* design/development — see also GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT

2 [*count*] : something that is the result of a process ▪ The sap used to make maple syrup is a natural *product*. ▪ This book is the *product* of many years of hard work. ▪ The ***finished/end product*** was a beautiful vase. — see also BY-PRODUCT, WASTE PRODUCT

3 [*count*] : someone or something that is produced or influenced by a particular environment or experience — + *of* ▪ People are often *products of* their surroundings and upbringing. ▪ Her politeness is a *product of* good parenting. ▪ My grandfather was a *product of* his times. [=my grandfather was like other people who grew up with him]

4 [*count*] *mathematics* : the number that is the result of multiplying two or more numbers ▪ 15 is the *product* of 3 and 5.

pro•duc•tion /prə'dʌkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*noncount*] **a** : the process of making or growing something for sale or use ▪ agricultural/food/steel *production* ▪ the *production* of grain/cars/nuclear weapons ▪ Next year's car models are already ***in production***. = Next year's car models have already ***gone into production***. [=next year's car models are already being made] ▪ The airplane is ***out of production***. = The airplane has ***gone out of production***. [=the airplane is no longer being made] — often used before another noun ▪ *production* costs/problems ▪ the *production* process/schedule — see also MASS PRODUCTION **b** : the process of making something naturally ▪ the body's *production* of red blood cells **c** : the process of making a play, movie, television show, record, etc. ▪ I took a course in film/video *production*. ▪ He has a job in television *production*. ▪ The sequel to the movie is ***in production***. [=is being made]

2 [*count*] : a show (such as a play or movie) that is presented to the public ▪ We saw a stage *production* of the novel. ▪ The director wants her in his next *production*.

3 [*count*] : the amount of something that is made or grown for sale or use ▪ the annual *production* of coal/steel/food ▪ a rise/fall in oil *production* ▪ *Production* levels are low/high.

4 [*singular*] *informal* : something that is very difficult or complicated ▪ It can be a major *production* to get the kids ready for school in the morning. ▪ Getting home turned out to be a real *production* because of all the delays at the airport. ▪ The picnic was quite a *production*. There were clowns, music, and fireworks.

production line *noun, pl* ~ **lines** [*count*] : a line of machines, equipment, workers, etc., in a factory that builds a product by passing work from one station to the next until the product is finished ▪ He works on the *production line* at the local factory. — called also *assembly line, line*

pro•duc•tive /prə'dʌktɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : doing or achieving a lot : working hard and getting good results ▪ a *productive* meeting ▪ I had a very *productive* day. ▪ I am most *productive* in the morning. ▪ a highly *productive* [=*successful*] sales team ▪ Some staff members are more *productive* than others.

2 *always used before a noun* : producing or able to produce something especially in large amounts ▪ *productive* fishing waters ▪ *productive* farmland

3 *formal* : causing or resulting in something — + *of* ▪ Your efforts have been *productive of* many benefits. [=have produced many benefits]

– **pro•duc•tive•ly** *adv* ▪ The farmers learned to use their land more *productively*. ▪ The team worked *productively*.

pro•duc•tiv•i•ty /ˌproʊdək'tɪvəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the rate at which goods are produced or work is completed ▪ The country has low/high agricultural *productivity*. ▪ The company is looking for ways to improve worker *productivity*. ▪ There has been an increase in *productivity*.

prof /'prɑ:f/ *noun, pl* **profs** [*count*] *informal* : PROFESSOR ▪ a Harvard *prof*

Prof. *abbr* professor ▪ *Prof.* Smith

[1]pro•fane /proʊ'feɪn/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal*

1 : having or showing disrespect for religious things ▪ *profane* language

2 : relating to ordinary life : not religious or spiritual : SECULAR ▪ sacred and *profane* customs

[2]profane *verb* **-fanes**; **-faned**; **-fan•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* + *literary* : to treat (a holy place or object) with great disrespect ▪ Vandals *profaned* [=*desecrated*] the temple.

pro•fan•i•ty /proʊ'fænəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*noncount*] : offensive language ▪ The comic uses too much *profanity*. ▪ My mom will not tolerate *profanity*.

2 [*count*] : an offensive word ▪ I have never heard my father utter a single *profanity*. — usually plural ▪ The song is filled with *profanities*.

pro•fess /prə'fɛs/ *verb* **-fess•es**; **-fessed**; **-fess•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*

1 : to say or declare (something) openly ▪ He *professes* confidence in his friend. ▪ They *profess* loyalty to the king. ▪ He *professes* himself (to be) unsatisfied with their decision.

2 : to say that you are, do, or feel something when other people doubt what you say : CLAIM — followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ They *professed to be* our friends. ▪ She *professed to know* nothing about the missing money. ▪ She *professed to be* pleased with the outcome, but we knew the truth.

3 *old-fashioned* : to believe in (a particular religion) ▪ He *professes* Judaism/Catholicism/Islam.

pro•fessed /prə'fɛst/ *adj, always before a noun, formal* : openly said or declared ▪ He is a *professed* enemy of the king. ▪ a *professed* Jew/Catholic/Muslim — often used to suggest that what someone says is not true or should be doubted ▪ His *professed* reason for resigning was to spend time with his family, but we heard rumors that he was caught stealing. — see also SELF-PROFESSED

pro•fes•sion /prə'fɛʃən/ *noun, pl* **-sions**

1 [*count*] : a type of job that requires special education, training, or skill ▪ The doctor talked to students who are thinking about entering/joining the *profession*. ▪ the legal *profession* ▪ Most *professions* in the medical field require years of training. ▪ He is a carpenter ***by profession***. = His *profession* is carpentry. ▪ (*humorous*) She works in ***the (world's) oldest profession***. [=she is a prostitute]

2 [*singular*] : the people who work in a particular profession ▪ Their daughter recently became a member of the medical *profession*. ▪ The teaching *profession* opposes the new law. = (*Brit*) The teaching *profession* oppose the new law.

3 [*count*] *formal* : the act of declaring or saying something openly — often + *of* ▪ She made a *profession of* religious faith.

[1]pro•fes•sion•al /prə'fɛʃənl/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* **a** : relating to a job that re-

quires special education, training, or skill ▪ Do you have any *professional* experience? ▪ *professional* people/photographers/electricians/soldiers ▪ a *professional* career **b** : done or given by a person who works in a particular profession ▪ *professional* services ▪ You need *professional* help. ▪ You should seek *professional* advice.

2 *always used before a noun* **a** : paid to participate in a sport or activity ▪ *professional* athletes/golfers ▪ a *professional* poker player ▪ a golfer who recently ***turned professional*** **b** : done by people who are paid to play or compete ▪ *professional* sports/football/poker

3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing the skill, good judgment, and polite behavior that is expected from a person who is trained to do a job well ▪ He deals with the customers in a very *professional* way. = He is very *professional* in dealing with the customers. ▪ I was impressed by the calm and *professional* way she handled the crisis. ▪ The presentation was very *professional*.

[2]professional *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*]

1 : someone who does a job that requires special training, education, or skill : someone who is a member of a profession ▪ medical/legal *professionals* ▪ The bathtub was installed by a *professional*.

2 : someone who is paid to participate in a sport or activity ▪ The tournament is open to both amateurs and *professionals*. ▪ a golfer who recently became a *professional* ▪ a golf/tennis *professional* [=a skillful golf/tennis player whose job is to teach other people how to play] — compare AMATEUR

3 : someone who has a lot of experience or skill in a particular job or activity ▪ She handled the situation like a *professional*.

professional foul *noun, pl* ~ **fouls** [*count*] *Brit, soccer* : a foul that is made on purpose especially to prevent the other team from scoring a goal

pro·fes·sion·al·ism /prəˈfɛʃənəˌlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the skill, good judgment, and polite behavior that is expected from a person who is trained to do a job well ▪ A high level of *professionalism* is expected when working with clients. ▪ She is highly respected for her *professionalism*.

pro·fes·sion·al·ize (*US*) *also Brit* **pro·fes·sion·al·ise** /prəˈfɛʃənəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-iz·es**; **-ized**; **-iz·ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to make (an activity) into a job that requires special education, training, or skill ▪ The country is *professionalizing* the military. — often used as *(be) professionalized* ▪ Childcare has *been professionalized*.

– **pro·fes·sion·al·i·za·tion** (*US*) *also Brit* **pro·fes·sion·al·i·sa·tion** /prəˌfɛʃənələˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* prəˌfɛʃənəˌlaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *professionalization* of sports

pro·fes·sion·al·ly /prəˈfɛʃənəli/ *adv*

1 : in a way that relates to someone's profession ▪ *Professionally*, she is very successful, but her personal life is unhappy.

2 : by someone who has the special education, training, or skill that is required to do a particular job ▪ The bathtub was *professionally* installed. [=was installed by a professional] ▪ a *professionally* trained staff

3 : as a paid job ▪ He plays soccer *professionally*.

4 : in a way that shows the skill, good judgment, and polite behavior that is expected from a person who is trained to do a job well ▪ The problem was dealt with very *professionally*.

pro·fes·sor /prəˈfɛsɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sors** [*count*] : a teacher especially of the highest rank at a college or university ▪ a chemistry/history *professor* = a *professor* of chemistry/history ▪ *Professor* Williams will be teaching the class.

– **pro·fes·so·ri·al** /ˌproʊfəˈsorijəl/ *adj* ▪ *professorial* duties/appointments ▪ He had a *professorial* look to him. = He looked *professorial*. [=he looked like a professor]

pro·fes·sor·ship /prəˈfɛsɚˌʃɪp/ *noun, pl* **-ships** [*count*] : the job or duties of a professor ▪ He accepted a *professorship* of poetry at the university.

prof·fer /ˈprɑːfɚ/ *verb* **-fers**; **-fered**; **-fer·ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to offer or give (something) to someone ▪ He *proffered* advice on how best to proceed. ▪ Many explanations were *proffered*. ▪ the *proffered* testimony/evidence

pro·fi·cient /prəˈfɪʃənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : good at doing something : SKILLFUL ▪ a *proficient* reader ▪ He has become very *proficient* at computer programming. ▪ She is *proficient* in two foreign languages.

– **pro·fi·cien·cy** /prəˈfɪʃənsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a test in reading *proficiency* = a reading *proficiency* test [=a test to see how well you can read] ▪ He shows a high level of *proficiency* in Spanish.

[1]pro·file /ˈproʊˌfajəl/ *noun, pl* **-files**



profile

1 a : the shape of a head or face that is seen or drawn from the side [*count*] His *profile* is very unusual. ▪ An image of the President's *profile* appears on the coin. [*noncount*] The drawing showed her head ***in profile***. [=the drawing showed the shape of her head as it is seen from the side] **b** [*count*] : the shape of something that is seen against a background — usually singular ▪ The artist painted the *profile* of a boat against the setting sun.

2 [*count*] : a brief written description that provides information about someone or something ▪ I read a *profile* of her in a magazine. ▪ patient *profiles* ▪ *profiles* of American colleges

high/low profile — used to describe the amount of attention that someone or something is given ▪ The actor's *high profile* helped promote the movie. ▪ The company has kept a *high profile* in the computer industry. ▪ I don't really like attention, so I try to keep/maintain a *low profile* around here. [=I try to avoid doing things that will cause people to notice me]

[2]profile *verb* **-files**; **-filed**; **-fil·ing** [+ *obj*] : to give a brief description that provides information about (someone or something) ▪ The mayor was *profiled* in the magazine last month.

profiling *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the act or process of learning information about someone based on what is already known ▪ consumer *profiling*

2 : the act or practice of regarding particular people as more likely to commit crimes because of their appearance, race, etc. ▪ racial *profiling*

[1]prof·it /ˈprɑːfət/ *noun, pl* **-its**

1 : money that is made in a business, through investing, etc., after all the costs and expenses are paid : a financial gain [*count*] The company made/turned a *profit* this year. ▪ *Profits* are up/down from last year. ▪ There was a rise/fall/increase/decrease in *profits* this year. ▪ The *profits* from CD sales were donated to charity. ▪ We sold the house ***at a profit***. [=we made a profit when we sold our house] [*noncount*] The organization is not run for *profit*. ▪ The film made $1,000,000 in *profit*. — opposite LOSS

2 [*noncount*] *formal* : the advantage or benefit that is gained from doing something ▪ The book can be read with *profit* by anyone who wants to understand how the system works.

[2]profit *verb* **-its**; **-it·ed**; **-it·ing**

1 a [*no obj*] : to get an advantage or benefit from something — often + *by* or *from* ▪ He *profited by* his experience/mistake. [=he learned something useful from his experience/mistake] ▪ Everyone can *profit from* reading this book. **b** [+ *obj*] : to be an advantage to (someone) : to help (someone) ▪ It would *profit* him to take some computer classes.

2 [*no obj*] : to earn or get money *by* or *from* something ▪ The company has *profited by* selling its products online. ▪ He *profited* greatly *from* his investments. ▪ The island *profits from* tourism.

prof·it·able /ˈprɑːfətəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : making money ▪ a *profitable* business ▪ The movie was very *profitable*.

2 : producing good or helpful results or effects ▪ a *profitable* [=*beneficial*] experience ▪ The agreement was *profitable* [=*advantageous*] for everyone.

– **prof·it·abil·i·ty** /ˌprɑːfətəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ trying to improve the company's *profitability* [=to make the company more profitable] – **prof·it·ably** /ˈprɑːfətəbli/ *adv* ▪ He invested his money *profitably*. ▪ Computers can be *profitably* used in schools.

prof·i·teer·ing /ˌprɑːfəˈtirɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *disapproving* : the act of making money by selling things at very high prices at a time when they are hard to get ▪ The company was accused of *profiteering* during the crisis.

– **prof·i·teer** /ˌprɑːfəˈtiɚ/ *noun, pl* **-teers** [*count*]

pro·fit·er·ole /prəˈfɪtəˌroʊl/ *noun, pl* **-oles** [*count*] *Brit* : CREAM PUFF 1

prof·it·less /ˈprɑːfətləs/ *adj* : not making a profit or producing a useful result ▪ a *profitless* company ▪ a *profitless* argument

profit margin *noun, pl* ~ **-gins** [*count*] : the difference between the cost of buying or making something and the price at which it is sold ▪ The company has one of the highest/lowest *profit margins* in the industry.

profit sharing *noun* [*noncount*] : a system in which employees receive a part of the company's profits

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prof·li·gate /ˈprɑːflɪgət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : carelessly and foolishly wasting money, materials, etc. : very wasteful ▪ She was very *profligate* in her spending. ▪ *profligate* energy use
– **profligate** *noun, pl* **-gates** [*count*] – **prof·li·ga·cy** /ˈprɑːflɪgəsi/ *noun* [*noncount*]

pro forma /proʊˈfoɚmə/ *adj* : done or existing as something that is usual or required but that has little true meaning or importance ▪ The meeting was strictly *pro forma*, since the decision had already been made.

pro forma invoice *noun, pl* ~ **-voices** [*count*] *business* : a document that is provided before or with a shipment of goods and that describes the items shipped or the terms of the sale

pro·found /prəˈfaʊnd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 a : having or showing great knowledge or understanding ▪ a *profound* thinker ▪ His knowledge of history is *profound*. ▪ Her books offer *profound* insights into the true nature of courage. **b** : difficult to understand : requiring deep thought or wisdom ▪ the *profound* mysteries of outer space ▪ *profound* questions
2 a : very strongly felt ▪ *profound* sorrow ▪ a *profound* sense of loss **b** : very great ▪ Computer technology has made *profound* [=*major, significant*] changes in our lives. ▪ His paintings have had a *profound* effect/impact/influence on her own work.
3 *somewhat formal* : absolute or complete ▪ a *profound* silence/sleep/deafness
– **pro·found·ly** *adv* ▪ She was influenced *profoundly* by his art. ▪ The discovery is *profoundly* important. ▪ Their beliefs are *profoundly* different. ▪ *profoundly* deaf people

pro·fun·di·ty /prəˈfʌndəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** *formal*
1 [*noncount*] : the quality being profound: such as **a** : the quality of showing great knowledge or understanding ▪ the *profundity* of his thoughts/insights ▪ Her books are a mixture of playfulness and *profundity*. **b** : the quality of being very strongly felt ▪ the depth and *profundity* of her feelings
2 [*count*] : a statement that shows great knowledge or understanding — usually plural ▪ philosophical *profundities*

pro·fuse /prəˈfjuːs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : given, produced, or existing in large amounts ▪ He offered *profuse* apologies for being late. ▪ They were *profuse* in their thanks. ▪ *profuse* bleeding/sweating
– **pro·fuse·ly** *adv* ▪ He apologized *profusely*. ▪ She was bleeding *profusely* when she was brought to the hospital.

pro·fu·sion /prəˈfjuːʒən/ *noun, formal* : a large amount of something [*singular*] — often + *of* ▪ a *profusion of* flowers/colors [*noncount*] The flowers grow ***in profusion***.

pro·gen·i·tor /proʊˈʤɛnətɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]
1 *formal* **a** : someone who first thinks of or does something : a person who begins something ▪ the *progenitors* of modern art **b** : something that is a model for something else : something that begins the development of something else ▪ a mechanical *progenitor* [=*precursor*] *of* the modern computer
2 *biology* : a person or animal in the past that is related to a person or animal living now : ANCESTOR ▪ wild cats that were the *progenitors* of the house cat

prog·e·ny /ˈprɑːʤəni/ *noun, pl* **progeny** [*count*]
1 a : a person who comes from a particular parent or family : the child or descendant of someone ▪ Many Americans are the *progeny* of immigrants. **b** : the young of an animal or plant ▪ The small plants are the *progeny* of an oak tree.
2 : something that is the product of something else ▪ Their work is the *progeny* of many earlier studies.

pro·ges·ter·one /proʊˈʤɛstəˌroʊn/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a substance (called a hormone) that occurs naturally in women and female animals ✧ Progesterone prepares the body for having a baby.

prog·no·sis /prɑgˈnoʊsəs/ *noun, pl* **-no·ses** /-ˈnoʊˌsiːz/ [*count*]
1 : a doctor's opinion about how someone will recover from an illness or injury ▪ Right now, doctors say his *prognosis* is/isn't good. — compare DIAGNOSIS
2 : a judgment about what is going to happen in the future ▪ The president had a hopeful *prognosis* about the company's future.

prog·nos·tic /prɑgˈnɑːstɪk/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : relating to or used for making a judgment about what is going to happen in the future ▪ *prognostic* information/factors/signs ▪ a *prognostic* weather chart

prog·nos·ti·ca·tion /prɑgˌnɑːstəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *formal* : a statement about what is going to happen in the future ▪ His *prognostications* [=*predictions*] are usually right.
– **prog·nos·ti·ca·tor** /prɑgˈnɑːstəˈkeɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] *formal* ▪ Political *prognosticators* believe she will lose the election.

¹pro·gram (*US*) *or Brit* **pro·gramme** /ˈproʊˌgræm/ *noun, pl* **-grams** [*count*]
1 : a plan of things that are done in order to achieve a specific result ▪ government *programs* ▪ a *program* of regular dental checkups ▪ a workout *program*
2 : a set of instructions that tell a computer what to do ▪ a sorting *program* ▪ He writes computer *programs*. ✧ In this sense, the spelling *program* is used in both U.S. and British English.
3 : a thin book or a piece of paper that gives information about a concert, play, sports game, etc. ▪ a theater *program*
4 : something that is broadcast on television or radio ▪ a news *program* [=*show*] ▪ the morning *program*
5 *US* : a group of classes that lead to a degree : a course of study ▪ The university has a great graduate *program*. ▪ I enrolled in the teaching *program*.
get with the program *informal* : to start doing what others need or want you to do : to become involved and active in a useful and effective way ▪ His boss told him that he'd better *get with the program* if he wants to keep his job.

²program (*US*) *or Brit* **programme** *verb* **-grams**; **-grammed** *or* **-gramed**; **-gram·ming** *or* **-gram·ing**
1 a : to give (a computer) a set of instructions to perform a particular action : to create a program for (a computer) [+ *obj*] He *programmed* the computer to calculate his monthly expenses and earnings. — often used as *(be) programmed* ▪ The computer *is programmed* to create monthly sales reports. [*no obj*] She is learning how to *program* in school. ✧ In this sense, the spelling *program* is used in both U.S. and British English. **b** [+ *obj*] : to give (a machine) a set of instructions to perform a particular action ▪ Can you help me *program* my cell phone? ▪ *program* a VCR
2 [+ *obj*] : to make (a person or animal) behave or think in a particular way — often used as *(be) programmed* ▪ Some people *are programmed* to be violent. [=some people have a natural or acquired tendency to be violent] ▪ instinctive behaviors that are genetically *programmed* in animals
– **pro·gram·ma·ble** /ˈproʊˌgræməbəl/ *adj* ▪ a *programmable* calculator

pro·gram·ma·tic /ˌproʊgrəˈmætɪk/ *adj, formal* : of, relating to, resembling, or having a program ▪ *programmatic* changes/reforms

pro·gram·mer /ˈproʊˌgræmɚ/ *noun, pl* **-mers** [*count*] : a person who creates computer programs

pro·gram·ming /ˈproʊˌgræmɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the act or job of creating computer programs
2 : a schedule of television or radio broadcasts ▪ television/radio *programming* ▪ The news conference interrupted regular television *programming*.

¹prog·ress /ˈprɑːgrəs, *Brit* ˈprəʊˌgrɛs/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : movement forward or toward a place ▪ the rapid *progress* of the ship ▪ He made slow *progress* down the steep cliff.
2 : the process of improving or developing something over a period of time ▪ the *progress* of science ▪ The project showed slow but steady *progress*. ▪ She offered a ***progress report***. [=a report about how much work has been done on something] ▪ We're not finished yet, but we're ***making progress***. [=we are moving forward in our work; our work is proceeding/progressing]
in progress : happening or being done ▪ Several projects are now *in progress*. ▪ The filming is already *in progress*.

²pro·gress /prəˈgrɛs/ *verb* **-gress·es**; **-gressed**; **-gress·ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to move forward in time ▪ It became colder as the day *progressed*. [=*went on*]
2 : to improve or develop over a period of time ▪ The project has been *progressing* slowly. ▪ The work is *progressing* and should be completed soon.
3 *always followed by an adverb or preposition, formal* : to move forward or toward a place ▪ The caravan *progressed* slowly across the desert.

pro·gres·sion /prəˈgrɛʃən/ *noun, pl* **-sions** [*count*]
1 : the process of developing over a period of time ▪ Doctors were surprised by the rapid *progression* of the disease. ▪ the natural *progression* of his musical talent
2 : a continuous and connected series of actions, events, etc. : SEQUENCE ▪ a *progression* of activities

[1]pro•gres•sive /prə'grɛsɪv/ *adj*
1 : moving forward ▪ the *progressive* movements of the hands of a clock
2 : happening or developing gradually over a period of time ▪ a *progressive* disease
3 [*more ~; most ~*] : using or interested in new or modern ideas especially in politics and education ▪ a *progressive* community/school ▪ a *progressive* candidate
4 *grammar* : of or relating to the progressive tense of a verb ▪ a *progressive* verb form
– **pro•gres•sive•ly** *adv* ▪ The situation grew *progressively* worse.

[2]progressive *noun, pl* **-sives**
1 [*count*] : a person who favors new or modern ideas especially in politics and education ▪ social *progressives*
2 ***the progressive*** *grammar* : PROGRESSIVE TENSE ▪ "*Believe*" is never used in *the progressive*.

progressive tense *noun, pl* **~ tenses** [*count*] *grammar* : a verb tense that is used to refer to an action or a state that is continuing to happen ✧ A progressive verb form in English consists of a form of the verb "be" followed by the main verb's present participle.

pro•hib•it /proʊ'hɪbət/ *verb* **-its**; **-it•ed**; **-it•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 a : to order (someone) not to use or do something — + *from* ▪ The town *prohibited* teenagers *from* being in the streets after 10 p.m. **b** : to say that (something) is not allowed ▪ The rules *prohibit* dating a coworker. ▪ The town *prohibits* [=*forbids*] parking on that street. — often used as *(be) prohibited* ▪ Flash photography *is prohibited* inside the museum. ▪ Alcohol *is prohibited* in the park.
2 : to make (something) impossible to do ▪ The prison's electric fence *prohibits* escape.

pro•hi•bi•tion /ˌprowə'bɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*noncount*] : the act of not allowing something to be used or done ▪ the city's *prohibition* of smoking in restaurants
2 [*count*] : a law or order that stops something from being used or done ▪ a *prohibition* against parking on the street
3 ***Prohibition*** [*noncount*] : the period of time from 1920 to 1933 in the U.S. when it was illegal to make or sell alcohol

pro•hi•bi•tion•ist /ˌprowə'bɪʃənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : someone who supported the laws that made the production and sale of alcohol illegal in the U.S. during Prohibition

pro•hib•i•tive /proʊ'hɪbətɪv/ *adj*
1 [*more ~; most ~*] : so high that people are prevented from using or buying something ▪ the *prohibitive* cost of rent ▪ The price was *prohibitive*. [=too high]
2 *US* : almost certain to perform, win, etc., in the expected way ▪ She is the *prohibitive* favorite to win the nomination. [=she is almost certain to win the nomination]
3 *formal* : stopping people from using or doing something ▪ a *prohibitive* ruling ▪ *prohibitive* legislation
– **pro•hib•i•tive•ly** *adv* ▪ The price was *prohibitively* high.

[1]proj•ect /'prɑːˌʤɛkt/ *noun, pl* **-ects** [*count*]
1 : a planned piece of work that has a specific purpose (such as to find information or to make something new) and that usually requires a lot of time ▪ an ambitious *project* ▪ a research/construction *project* ▪ The repair turned out to be quite a *project*. [=it took a lot of time and effort to do]
2 : a task or problem in school that requires careful work over a long period of time ▪ a science *project*
3 *US* : HOUSING PROJECT — usually plural ▪ They grew up in ***the projects***.

[2]pro•ject /prə'ʤɛkt/ *verb* **-jects**; **-ject•ed**; **-ject•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to plan, calculate, or estimate (something) for a time in the future ▪ He *projected* next year's costs as being slightly higher than this year's. ▪ It's difficult to *project* funding needs so far into the future. — often used as *(be) projected* ▪ The new building *is projected* to be finished in the fall. ▪ The actual cost was much higher than the *projected* cost. ▪ What is the *projected* [=*expected*] date of completion?
2 [+ *obj*] : to cause (light, a picture, a movie, etc.) to appear on a surface — often + *on* or *onto* ▪ The machine *projects* motion pictures *on/onto* a screen.
3 [+ *obj*] : to have or show (a particular quality, image, etc., that can be seen by other people) ▪ He *projects* strength. ▪ an athlete who *projects* a positive image to young people ▪ We need an actor who *projects* a tough-guy image. ▪ He tried to ***project himself*** as a strong leader. [=to act in a way that would make people see him as a strong leader]
4 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to stick out beyond an edge or surface ▪ Two balconies *projected* [=*extended*] out over the seats below.
5 [+ *obj*] : to send or throw (something) forward, upward, or outward ▪ The fountain *projects* a slender column of water high into the air. ▪ You need to ***project your voice*** better if you want to be an actor. [=you need to speak louder and more clearly if you want to be an actor] — often used figuratively ▪ The success of his first movie suddenly *projected* [=*threw*] him into an unfamiliar world of wealth and fame.
project onto [*phrasal verb*] ***project (something) onto (someone)*** : to believe or imagine that (your ideas, feelings, etc.) are shared by (another person) ▪ She *projected* her fears *onto* him. [=she thought that he had the same fears she had]

pro•jec•tile /prə'ʤɛktajəl/ *noun, pl* **-tiles** [*count*] *formal*
1 : something (such as a bullet or rocket) that is shot from a weapon ▪ The cannon fires a ten-pound *projectile*.
2 : something (such as a rock) that is thrown as a weapon ▪ Someone threw a *projectile* at her car.

pro•jec•tion /prə'ʤɛkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*count*] : an estimate of what might happen in the future based on what is happening now ▪ He gave a *projection* of future expenses.
2 [*count*] : something that sticks out from a surface ▪ *projections* on the rock wall
3 [*noncount*] : the act or process of causing a picture, movie, etc., to appear on a surface ▪ movie *projection* ▪ *projection* equipment
4 [*count*] *technical* : a type of map or drawing which shows all the parts of something that is curved or solid (such as the earth) on a flat surface ▪ a *projection* map
5 [*noncount*] : the act of speaking, singing, or producing sounds in a way that can be heard over a great distance ▪ You need to work on voice/vocal *projection*. ▪ sound *projection*
6 [*noncount*] *psychology* : the act of imagining that someone else has the same ideas, feelings, etc., that you have ▪ An example of *projection* is when someone thinks that everyone hates them because they hate themselves.
7 [*count*] : something that is imagined or created from your ideas, thoughts, feelings, etc. — often + *of* ▪ The image that we have of strangers is often just a *projection of* our own fears and desires.

pro•jec•tion•ist /prə'ʤɛkʃənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who operates a machine (called a projector) that shows movies on a screen in a theater ▪ a movie *projectionist*

pro•jec•tor /prə'ʤɛktɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : a machine that projects a movie or picture onto a screen ▪ a movie/slide *projector* — see also OVERHEAD PROJECTOR

pro•lapse /proʊ'læps/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a condition in which an organ in your body moves down below its normal position ▪ *prolapse* of the uterus

prole /'proʊl/ *noun, pl* **proles** [*count*] *Brit, old-fashioned* + *impolite* : a person who has low social status : a member of the working class : PROLETARIAN

pro•le•tar•i•an /ˌproʊlə'terijən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*] : a person who has low social status : a member of the working class
– **proletarian** *adj* ▪ He was proud of his *proletarian* origins. ▪ a *proletarian* novel [=a novel about working-class people]

pro•le•tar•i•at /ˌproʊlə'terijət/ *noun*
the proletariat : the lowest social or economic class of a community; *especially* : the working class ▪ a member of *the proletariat*

pro–life /proʊ'laɪf/ *adj* : opposed to abortion ▪ the *pro-life* movement ▪ The governor has taken a *pro-life* position. = The governor is *pro-life*. — compare PRO-CHOICE
– **pro–lifer** *noun, pl* **-lifers** [*count*]

pro•lif•er•ate /prə'lɪfəˌreɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [*no obj*] : to increase in number or amount quickly ▪ New problems have *proliferated* in recent months. [=many new problems have occurred in recent months]
– **pro•lif•er•a•tion** /prəˌlɪfə'reɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] cancer cell *proliferation* ▪ trying to halt (the) *proliferation* of nuclear weapons [*singular*] There has been a recent *proliferation* of medical advertising on TV.

pro•lif•ic /prə'lɪfɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : producing a large amount of something ▪ a *prolific* author [=an author who writes many books] ▪ a *prolific* inventor ▪ She's a *prolific* scorer. [=she scores many points/goals] ▪ a very *prolific* orchard [=an orchard that produces a very large amount of fruit] ▪ The tree is a *prolific* bloomer. [=the tree produces many flowers]
– **pro•lif•i•cal•ly** /prə'lɪfɪkli/ *adv*

pro•lix /proʊ'lɪks/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* + *disapprov-*

ing : using too many words : VERBOSE ▪ The speech was unnecessarily *prolix*. ▪ a somewhat *prolix* writer

pro•logue /'proʊˌlɑ:g/ *noun, pl* **-logues** [*count*] : an introduction to a book, play, etc. ▪ a brief, one-page *prologue* ▪ the *prologue* to his autobiography — often used figuratively ▪ events that were a *prologue* to war [=events that came before and led to war] — compare EPILOGUE

pro•long /prə'lɑ:ŋ/ *verb* **-longs**; **-longed**; **-long•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something) last or continue for a longer time ▪ Chemotherapy helped to *prolong* [=*extend*] her life. ▪ Additives are used to *prolong* the shelf life of packaged food. ▪ High interest rates were *prolonging* the recession.

– **pro•lon•ga•tion** /proʊˌlɑ:ŋ'geɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*] ▪ a *prolongation* of life/suffering

prolonged *adj, always used before a noun* [*more ~; most ~*] : lasting longer than usual or expected : continuing for a long time ▪ a *prolonged* absence ▪ a *prolonged* period of uncertainty ▪ *prolonged* applause/discussions ▪ a *prolonged* illness ▪ a *prolonged* period of rain

prom /'prɑ:m/ *noun, pl* **proms** [*count*]

1 *US* : a formal dance for high school students usually at the end of the school year ▪ the junior/senior *prom* ▪ the high school *prom* ▪ Are you going to the *prom*? — often used before another noun ▪ the *prom* queen ▪ *prom* night

2 *Brit, informal* : PROMENADE CONCERT

[1]prom•e•nade /ˌprɑ:mə'neɪd, ˌprɑ:mə'nɑ:d/ *noun, pl* **-nades** [*count*]

1 *Brit, somewhat old-fashioned* : a public place for walking especially along a beach

2 *old-fashioned* : a walk taken in a public place for pleasure ▪ They went for a *promenade* around town.

[2]promenade *verb* **-ades**; **-ad•ed**; **-ad•ing** [*no obj*] *old-fashioned* : to walk in a public place for pleasure ▪ They *promenaded* along the beach.

promenade concert *noun, pl* ~ **-certs** [*count*] *Brit* : a musical concert during which many people who are listening stand instead of sit

prom•i•nence /'prɑ:mənəns/ *noun* : the state of being important, well-known, or noticeable : the state of being prominent [*noncount*] She is a scholar of considerable *prominence*. [=*distinction*] ▪ He quickly gained *prominence* [=became well-known] in medical circles. ▪ The company rose to *prominence* in the 1990s. [*singular*] The publicity has given him a *prominence* he doesn't deserve.

prom•i•nent /'prɑ:mənənt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : important and well-known ▪ socially/politically *prominent* families ▪ The new policy is opposed by *prominent* [=*leading*] members of the faculty. ▪ He quickly became *prominent* in the music industry.

2 a : easily noticed or seen ▪ He placed the award in a *prominent* position on his desk. ▪ the disease's *prominent* symptoms **b** : sticking out in a way that is easily seen or noticed ▪ He has a *prominent* nose/chin. ▪ *prominent* cheekbones ▪ the most *prominent* peak in the mountain range

– **prom•i•nent•ly** *adv* ▪ He figured *prominently* in the band's history. [=he had an important part in the band's history] ▪ The award is *prominently* positioned where everyone can see it.

pro•mis•cu•ous /prə'mɪskjəwəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *disapproving*

1 : having or involving many sexual partners ▪ a *promiscuous* man/woman ▪ *promiscuous* behavior ▪ *promiscuous* sex

2 *formal* : including or involving too many people or things : not limited in a careful or proper way ▪ He was *promiscuous* with his apologies. [=he apologized often for many different reasons] ▪ a *promiscuous* selection of poems

– **pro•mis•cu•i•ty** /ˌprɑ:mə'skju:wəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ sexual *promiscuity* – **pro•mis•cu•ous•ly** *adv*

[1]prom•ise /'prɑ:məs/ *noun, pl* **-is•es**

1 [*count*] : a statement telling someone that you will definitely do something or that something will definitely happen in the future ▪ I'll be here early tomorrow, and that's a *promise*. [=I promise that I'll be here early tomorrow] ▪ Do I have your *promise* that you'll support me? [=do you promise to support me?] ▪ She gave me her *promise*. ▪ I don't believe his *promise* of further tax cuts. = I don't believe his *promise* to cut taxes further. ▪ He ***made a promise*** to help her. = He *made a promise* that he would help her. [=he promised to help her] ▪ He ***kept/fulfilled his promise***. [=he did what he said he would do] ▪ He ***broke his promise***. = He ***went back on his promise***. [=he didn't do what he said he would do] ▪ She never *made a promise* that she didn't intend to keep.

2 [*noncount*] : an indication of future success or improvement ▪ a young artist who ***shows (a lot of) promise*** [=who seems talented and likely to do good work in the future] ▪ Her early novels were ***full of promise***. [=were very promising] ▪ The new drug ***holds/has promise***. [=the new drug could be effective or successful]

3 : a reason to expect that something will happen in the future — + *of* [*noncount*] There is little *promise of* relief in the forecast. ▪ They were attracted by the *promise of* success. [*singular*] a sunny morning that gives every *promise of* a fine day ▪ There is a *promise of* better days ahead.

a lick and a promise see [2]LICK

[2]promise *verb* **-ises**; **-ised**; **-is•ing**

1 : to tell someone that you will definitely do something or that something will definitely happen in the future [+ *obj*] He *promised* to buy his son a new bicycle. = He *promised* his son a new bicycle. = He *promised* a new bicycle to his son. ▪ *Promise* me that you won't tell anyone. ▪ I can't *promise* you that I'll be able to go, but I'll do my best. ▪ The governor *promised* that the prisoners would receive a fair trial. ▪ She *promised* to announce the results tomorrow. ▪ International organizations have *promised* aid. ▪ I *promise* to be careful. [*no obj*] You always *promise*, but you never do what you say you will. ▪ "I won't tell anyone." "*Promise*?" "Yes, I *promise*."

2 [+ *obj*] *somewhat formal* : to make (something) seem likely : to show signs of (something that is likely or expected to happen) ▪ Those gray skies *promise* rain. ✧ Something that ***promises to be*** good, exciting, etc., is expected to be good, exciting, etc. ▪ The race *promises to be* the most exciting of the season. ▪ It *promises to be* a good game. [=it should be a good game]

I (can) promise you — used to emphasize a statement ▪ He's only concerned about himself, *I promise* [=*assure*] *you*. ▪ *I can promise you*, you won't be disappointed.

promise (someone) the stars/moon/earth/world : to promise (someone) that you will do or give something great or wonderful even though it is not possible ▪ He *promised her the stars and the moon*, but he never even bought her flowers. ▪ Politicians will *promise the earth* when they're trying to get elected.

Promised Land *noun*

the Promised Land **1** : the land that was given to Abraham and his descendants according to the promise God made in the Bible **2** *or* ***the promised land*** : a happy place or condition that someone wants to reach : a place where dreams or hopes can come true ▪ They came to America searching for *the promised land*.

promising *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : likely to succeed or to be good : full of promise ▪ a *promising* student ▪ a *promising* start/debut ▪ The neighborhood didn't look very *promising*.

– **prom•is•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ His career as a quarterback began *promisingly* (enough) but was cut short by injuries.

prom•is•so•ry note /'prɑ:məˌsori-, *Brit* 'prɒməsri-/ *noun, pl* ~ **notes** [*count*] *business* : a written promise to pay an amount of money before a particular date

pro•mo /'proʊmoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-mos** [*count*] *informal* : something (such as an announcement, a brief film, or an appearance) that is used to advertise or promote something (such as a new book or movie) ▪ radio/television *promos* — often used before another noun ▪ a *promo* photo/shoot/appearance

prom•on•to•ry /'prɑ:mənˌtori, *Brit* 'prɒməntri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] : a high area of land or rock that sticks out into the sea ▪ a rocky/steep *promontory*

pro•mote /prə'moʊt/ *verb* **-motes**; **-mot•ed**; **-mot•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to change the rank or position of (someone) to a higher or more important one ▪ I was *promoted* today! ▪ He was *promoted* to senior editor. ▪ The army major was *promoted* to lieutenant colonel. — opposite DEMOTE **b** *Brit* : to move (a sports team) to a higher position in a league ▪ The team have been *promoted* to the First Division. — opposite RELEGATE

2 : to help (something) happen, develop, or increase ▪ The President's visit was intended to *promote* [=*further*] foreign trade. ▪ Mediators were present to *promote* dialogue. ▪ Good soil *promotes* plant growth. ▪ The school distributed pamphlets *promoting* good dental hygiene.

3 : to make people aware of (something, such as a new product) through advertising : to make (something) more popular, well-known, etc. ▪ The marketing department is busy *promoting* the new line of men's clothes for fall. ▪ The island is being *promoted* as a destination for romantic getaways.

pro•mot•er /prə'moʊtə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a person or organization that organizes or provides money for a sports event, a musical performance, etc. ▪ a boxing *promoter* [=a person who organizes boxing matches] ▪ concert/club *promoters*
2 : a person or organization that helps something to happen, develop, or increase — often + *of* ▪ the *promoters of* the congressional bill ▪ The company is a major *promoter of* alternative fuels.

pro•mo•tion /prə'moʊʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions :** the act of promoting someone or something: such as **a :** the act of moving someone to a higher or more important position or rank in an organization [*noncount*] There was little chance for/of *promotion* within the company. [*count*] She was given a well-deserved *promotion*. **b** [*noncount*] *Brit* **:** the act of moving a sports team to a higher position in a league **c :** something (such as advertising) that is done to make people aware of something and increase its sales or popularity [*noncount*] — often + *of* ▪ the *promotion of* a new brand of ice cream [*count*] The company is offering a special *promotion* to increase sales. **d** [*noncount*] **:** the activity of helping something to happen, develop, or increase ▪ the *promotion* of better relations between neighboring countries

pro•mo•tion•al /prə'moʊʃənl/ *adj* **:** done or used to make people aware of something (such as a new product or book) and increase its sales or popularity ▪ *promotional* displays/materials ▪ She went on a *promotional* tour for her novel.

[1]prompt /'prɑ:mpt/ *verb* **prompts; prompt•ed; prompting** [+ *obj*]
1 a : to cause (someone) to do something ▪ Curiosity *prompted* her to ask a few questions. **b :** to be the cause of (something) ▪ Pride *prompted* his angry response. ▪ The evidence *prompted* a criminal investigation.
2 a : to say (something that encourages a person to talk) ▪ "Did you hear me?" he *prompted* when his friend did not respond to his first question. **b :** to say the lines of a play to (an actor who has forgotten them) **:** to give a prompt to (an actor) ▪ The actor had to be *prompted* by someone who was standing offstage.
3 *computers* **:** to show a message that tells (a user) to do something ▪ The computer/program *prompted* me to type in a number.
– prompt•er *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

[2]prompt *adj* **prompt•er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*]
1 : done or given without delay ▪ The victims need *prompt* [=*immediate*] medical assistance. ▪ We always get *prompt* service at that restaurant. ▪ He was offered *prompt* access to the data he needed.
2 : arriving or doing something at the expected time or without delay ▪ They were very *prompt* about responding to my request. ▪ Please try to be *prompt* [=*punctual*] about keeping appointments.
– prompt•ness *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ I was surprised by the *promptness* of their response.

[3]prompt *noun, pl* **prompts** [*count*]
1 : the lines of a play that are said to an actor who has forgotten them ▪ The actor was given a *prompt* by someone offstage.
2 *computers* **:** a message that appears on a computer screen asking the user to do something or to provide information ▪ a computer *prompt*

[4]prompt *adv, Brit* **:** exactly at the time stated ▪ The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. *prompt*. [=(*US*) *sharp*]

prompt•ly /'prɑ:mptli/ *adv*
1 : in a prompt manner **:** without delay ▪ He reacted *promptly* during the emergency. ▪ The student was *promptly* [=*immediately*] expelled.
2 : exactly at a particular or the correct time ▪ She arrived *promptly* at 7:00 p.m. as we had agreed.

pro•mul•gate /'prɑ:məl,geɪt/ *verb* **-gates; -gat•ed; -gating** [+ *obj*]
1 *formal* **:** to make (an idea, belief, etc.) known to many people ▪ Her ideas/theories have been widely *promulgated* on the Internet.
2 *technical* **:** to make (a new law) known officially and publicly ▪ The law was *promulgated* in April 1988.
– pro•mul•ga•tion /,prɑ:məl'geɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

prone /'proʊn/ *adj*
1 [*more ~; most ~*] **:** likely to do, have, or suffer from something — usually + *to* ▪ They are *prone to* (making) errors/mistakes. = They are error-*prone*/mistake-*prone*. [=they make many errors/mistakes] ▪ Tests showed that the machine is *prone to* failure/fail. ▪ He is somewhat *prone to* depression. ▪ People in my family are *prone to* heart disease. ▪ He is *prone to* (having) accidents. = He is ***accident-prone***. [=he has many accidents] ▪ an athlete who is ***injury-prone*** [=who is often injured]
2 : lying with the front of your body facing downward ▪ He was lying on the floor in a *prone* position. = He was (lying) *prone* on the floor. — compare SUPINE
– prone•ness /'proʊnnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *proneness* to accidents/depression

prong /'prɑ:ŋ/ *noun, pl* **prongs** [*count*]
1 : one of the long points of a fork or similar object **:** TINE
2 : one of the small metal parts of an electrical plug that fit into the holes in an outlet

pronged /'prɑ:ngd/ *adj*
1 : having a specified number of prongs — used in combination ▪ a three-*pronged* fork/outlet/plug
2 : having a specified number of parts — used in combination ▪ The company has a two-*pronged* strategy for improving sales in the coming year.

prong•horn /'prɑ:ŋ,hoən/ *noun, pl* **-horn** *or* **-horns** [*count*] **:** a large animal of western North America that looks like an antelope — called also *pronghorn antelope*


pronghorn

pro•nom•i•nal /proʊ'nɑ:mənl/ *adj, grammar* **:** relating to a pronoun or used like a pronoun ▪ the *pronominal* adjective "this" in "this dog"
– pro•nom•i•nal•ly *adv*

pro•noun /'proʊ,naʊn/ *noun, pl* **-nouns** [*count*] *grammar* **:** a word (such as *I, he, she, you, it, we,* or *they*) that is used instead of a noun or noun phrase — see also PERSONAL PRONOUN

pro•nounce /prə'naʊns/ *verb* **-nounc•es; -nounced; -nounc•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] **a :** to make the sound of (a word or letter) with your voice ▪ She practices *pronouncing* foreign words. ▪ The "k" in "know" is not *pronounced*. [=the "k" in "know" is silent] **b :** to say or speak (a word) correctly ▪ I'm sorry. I can't *pronounce* your name.
2 [+ *obj*] *formal* **a :** to say or announce (something) in an official or formal way ▪ The priest *pronounced* a blessing on their home. ▪ The judge ***pronounced sentence***. [=stated the punishment for a criminal] **b :** to say or state that (someone or something) is something in usually an official or definite way ▪ After reviewing the replay of the race's finish, the horse was *pronounced* the winner. [=was declared to be the winner] ▪ I now *pronounce* you man and wife. [=I now declare that you are married] ▪ She *pronounced* the party a success. [=she said that the party was a success] ▪ The doctors *pronounced* him fit to go back to work. ▪ He was *pronounced* dead upon arrival at the hospital.
3 [*no obj*] *formal* **a :** to state an opinion on something — + *on* or *upon* ▪ As a grammarian, he freely *pronounces on* questions of proper English. ▪ The senator *pronounced upon* the major issues in the election. **b :** to give a judgment for or against someone or something ▪ Many senators are *pronouncing* in favor of the bill. ▪ The judge *pronounced* for/against the defendant.

pro•nounce•able /prə'naʊnsəbəl/ *adj* **:** capable of being pronounced or said ▪ His name is not easily *pronounceable*.

pro•nounced /prə'naʊnst/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] **:** very noticeable ▪ He walked with a *pronounced* limp. ▪ There has been a *pronounced* [=*decided, definite*] improvement in her condition. ▪ The symptoms of the disease have become steadily more *pronounced*.

pro•nounce•ment /prə'naʊnsmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] *formal* **:** an official public statement ▪ He made some important *pronouncements* on government policy.

pron•to /'prɑ:n,toʊ/ *adv, informal* **:** without delay **:** right away ▪ He told me to get there *pronto*. [=*quickly, immediately*]

pro•nun•ci•a•tion /prə,nʌnsi'eɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 : the way in which a word or name is pronounced [*count*] What is the correct *pronunciation* of his name? [*noncount*] I haven't learned proper *pronunciation* of French words.
2 [*singular*] **:** a particular person's way of pronouncing a word or the words of a language ▪ He has flawless *pronuncia-*

tion. [=he pronounces words flawlessly]

[1]proof /ˈpru:f/ *noun, pl* **proofs**

1 [*noncount*] : something which shows that something else is true or correct ▪ The document was *proof* that her story was true. ▪ He claims that he was home when the murder was committed, but he has no *proof*. ▪ The photograph is ***proof positive*** [=definite proof] that the accident happened the way he described. ▪ I'm ***living proof*** that success is possible. [=my success shows that other people can succeed too] — often + *of* ▪ The evidence gave *proof of* her statement. [=the evidence proved her statement] ▪ Do you have any *proof of* identity? ▪ Keep the receipt as ***proof of purchase***. [=evidence showing/proving that you bought something]

2 [*count*] **a** : an act or process of showing that something is true ▪ The ***burden of proof*** [=the need to show that something is true] is on the prosecuting lawyer of the case. **b** *mathematics* : a test which shows that a calculation is correct ▪ The *proof* shows that the theorem is true. ▪ mathematical *proofs*

3 [*count*] *technical* : a copy of something that is going to be printed which is examined and used to make corrections before the final printing is done — usually plural ▪ He edited the *proofs* of the manuscript.

4 [*noncount*] : a measurement of how much alcohol is in an alcoholic drink ▪ The whiskey is 80 *proof*.

the proof is in the pudding see PUDDING

[2]proof *adj, formal* : designed or made to prevent or protect *against* something harmful ▪ The seal of the bottle is *proof against* tampering. [=the seal prevents tampering] — usually used in combination ▪ water*proof* ▪ bullet*proof*

[3]proof *verb* **proofs**; **proofed**; **proof•ing** [+ *obj*] : PROOFREAD ▪ She *proofed* the story carefully.

proof•read /ˈpru:fˌri:d/ *verb* **-reads**; **-read** /-ˌrɛd/; **-read•ing** [+ *obj*] : to read and correct mistakes in (a written or printed piece of writing) ▪ He *proofread* the essay carefully. – **proof•read•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ She's an excellent *proofreader*. – **proof•read•ing** *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]prop /ˈprɑ:p/ *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **props**; **propped**; **prop•ping** [+ *obj*] : to support (something) by placing it against something else or by placing something under it ▪ She *propped* the rake against a tree. ▪ We *propped* the shed's roof with poles. ▪ The window was *propped* open.

prop up [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***prop up (something) or prop (something) up*** : to stop (something) from falling or slipping by placing something under or against it ▪ We *propped up* the beams with long boards. **2** ***prop (someone) up or prop up (someone)*** : to give help, encouragement, or support to (someone) ▪ His faith *propped* him *up* in times of crisis.

[2]prop *noun, pl* **props** [*count*]

1 : something that is used to support something and keep it in position ▪ He used rocks as *props* to keep up the fence post.

2 : someone or something that gives help or support to someone or something else ▪ His wife was his emotional *prop* during his depression. ▪ He used his inheritance money as a *prop* to start his own business.

3 *rugby* : a player who plays in a forward position on a rugby team — called also *prop forward*

– compare [3]PROP, [4]PROP

[3]prop *noun, pl* **props** [*count*] : an object that is used by a performer or actor or that is used to create a desired effect in a scene on a stage, in a movie, etc. ▪ The performers used different *props* in their comedy routine. ▪ The only stage *props* were a hanging lightbulb and a wooden chair. — compare [2]PROP, [4]PROP

[4]prop *noun, pl* **props** [*count*] *informal* : PROPELLER — compare [2]PROP, [3]PROP

pro•pa•gan•da /ˌprɑ:pəˈgændə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *usually disapproving* : ideas or statements that are often false or exaggerated and that are spread in order to help a cause, a political leader, a government, etc. ▪ He was accused of spreading *propaganda*. ▪ a *propaganda* campaign ▪ The report was nothing but lies and *propaganda*.

– **pro•pa•gan•dist** /ˌprɑ:pəˈgændɪst/ *noun, pl* **-dists** [*count*] – **pro•pa•gan•dis•tic** /ˌprɑ:pəˌgænˈdɪstɪk/ *adj* ▪ *propagandistic* writing

pro•pa•gan•dize *also Brit* **pro•pa•gan•dise** /ˌprɑ:pəˈgænˌdaɪz/ *verb* **-diz•es**; **-dized**; **-diz•ing** *formal* : to spread propaganda [+ *obj*] They were *propagandized* into believing what the government wanted them to believe. [*no obj*] He uses his movies to *propagandize* for the state.

prop•a•gate /ˈprɑ:pəˌgeɪt/ *verb* **-gates**; **-gat•ed**; **-gat•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to make (something, such as an idea or belief) known to many people ▪ The group *propagates* [=*promotes*] its antigovernment doctrine on the Web.

2 *technical* : to produce (a new plant) [+ *obj*] We are discovering new ways to *propagate* plants without seeds. ▪ He *propagated* the apple tree by grafting. [*no obj*] The plants failed to *propagate*.

– **prop•a•ga•tion** /ˌprɑ:pəˈgeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *propagation* of plants/ideas – **prop•a•ga•tor** /ˈprɑ:pəˌgeɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ a *propagator* of new ideas ▪ plant *propagators*

pro•pane /ˈproʊˌpeɪn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a colorless gas that is used for cooking and heating

pro•pel /prəˈpɛl/ *verb* **-pels**; **-pelled**; **-pel•ling** [+ *obj*] : to push or drive (someone or something) forward or in a particular direction ▪ He grabbed him and *propelled* him through the door. ▪ The train is *propelled* by steam. — often used figuratively ▪ She was *propelled* [=*motivated*] by greed when she stole the money. ▪ The album *propelled* the band to fame. — see also JET-PROPELLED

pro•pel•lant *also* **pro•pel•lent** /prəˈpɛlənt/ *noun, pl* **-lants** [*count, noncount*] *technical*

1 : a gas under pressure in a can that is used to spray out the contents when the pressure is released

2 : a fuel or an explosive substance that is used to make something (such as a rocket) go forward ▪ rocket *propellant*

pro•pel•ler /prəˈpɛlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-lers** [*count*] : a device with two or more blades that turn quickly and cause a ship or aircraft to move

propelling pencil *noun, pl* ~ **-cils** [*count*] *Brit* : MECHANICAL PENCIL

pro•pen•si•ty /prəˈpɛnsəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*count*] *formal* : a strong natural tendency to do something ▪ Why do some people have a *propensity* for/toward violence? [=why are some people violent?; why do some people have a tendency to be violent?] ▪ He had a *propensity* for crime. ▪ She has a *propensity* to assume the worst. [=she tends to assume the worst]

[1]prop•er /ˈprɑ:pɚ/ *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] **a** : correct according to social or moral rules ▪ That is not the *proper* [=*acceptable*] way to dress for school. ▪ It is not *proper* to speak that way. ▪ The children need to learn *proper* behavior. ▪ It would not be *proper* for you to borrow the ladder without asking first. **b** : behaving in a way that is correct according to social or moral rules ▪ She is a very prim and *proper* young lady.

2 *always used before a noun* : exactly correct ▪ Is this the *proper* spelling of your name? ▪ *proper* punctuation

3 *always used before a noun* : right or suitable for some purpose or situation ▪ He didn't have the *proper* [=*appropriate*] training for the job. ▪ You need to eat a *proper* meal instead of junk food. ▪ Each step must be done in the *proper* order/sequence. ▪ You need to get a *proper* [=*real, decent*] job. ▪ Please put your shoes in their *proper* place. [=please put your shoes where they belong]

4 *always used after a noun* — used to emphasize that you are referring to the specific thing that is being named ▪ Her family lived outside the city *proper*. [=lived in an area that was close to the city but was not actually in the city]

5 *always used before a noun, chiefly Brit* : complete or absolute ▪ I felt a *proper* fool after making that mistake. ▪ We are in a *proper* mess now.

proper to *formal* : belonging to or suited to (something) ▪ Are such violent emotions *proper to* poetry?

[2]proper *adv, chiefly Brit, informal* : in a complete way ▪ We sure have messed things up *proper*. [=*thoroughly, completely*] ▪ They beat us ***good and proper***.

prop•er•ly /ˈprɑ:pɚli/ *adv*

1 : in a way that is acceptable or suitable ▪ The children must learn how to behave *properly* [=*appropriately*] in church. ▪ He doesn't know how to *properly* tie a necktie. ▪ The can opener is not working *properly*. [=*right*]

2 : in a way that is accurate or correct ▪ The boxes were not *properly* labeled. ▪ Did I spell your name *properly*? ▪ *Properly* speaking, whales are not fish. ▪ The house *properly* belongs to his sister.

proper name *noun, pl* ~ **names** [*count*] : PROPER NOUN

proper noun *noun, pl* ~ **nouns** [*count*] : a word or group of words (such as "Noah Webster," "Kentucky," or "U.S. Congress") that is the name of a particular person, place, or thing and that usually begins with a capital letter — called

also *proper name*; compare COMMON NOUN

prop•er•tied /ˈprɑːpɚtid/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : owning a lot of property or land ▪ the wealthy, *propertied* classes

prop•er•ty /ˈprɑːpɚti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*noncount*] : something that is owned by a person, business, etc. ▪ Those books are my *property*. [=I own those books] ▪ We are not responsible for the loss of ***personal property***. ▪ The library is ***public property***. [=the library is owned by the city, town, or state] ▪ He was trying to sell ***stolen property***. — see also INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

2 : a piece of land often with buildings on it that is owned by a person, business, etc. [*noncount*] He was caught trespassing on private *property*. ▪ She owns all sorts of *property* around town. ▪ The students were caught smoking on school *property*. [*count*] He owns several valuable *properties* in the area. ▪ a developer of commercial/residential *properties* — often used before another noun ▪ *Property* values are going up. ▪ a *property* tax

3 [*count*] *somewhat formal* : a special quality or characteristic of something ▪ One of the *properties* of helium is its lightness. ▪ A unique *property* of garlic is its strong odor. ▪ The two plants have similar physical *properties*. ▪ The herb has medicinal *properties*. ▪ the chemical *properties* of water

hot property see ¹HOT

prop forward *noun, pl* ~ **-wards** [*count*] *rugby* : ²PROP 3

proph•e•cy /ˈprɑːfəsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies**

1 [*count*] : a statement that something will happen in the future : PREDICTION ▪ The *prophecies* of the author have all come true. ▪ His *prophecy* was fulfilled. [=the thing that he said would happen did happen]

2 [*noncount*] : the power or ability to know what will happen in the future ▪ She has the gift of *prophecy*.

proph•e•sy /ˈprɑːfəˌsaɪ/ *verb* **-sies**; **-sied**; **-sy•ing** [+ *obj*] : to state that something will happen in the future : PREDICT ▪ He *prophesied* the government's failure. = He *prophesied* that the government would fail. ▪ The book claims that modern events were *prophesied* in ancient times.

proph•et /ˈprɑːfət/ *noun, pl* **-ets**

1 [*count*] : a member of some religions (such as Christianity, Judaism, and Islam) who delivers messages that are believed to have come from God ▪ the Old Testament *prophets* ▪ the words of the *prophet* ▪ the *Prophet* Isaiah/Muhammad

2 ***the Prophet*** — used as another name for Muhammad, the founder of Islam

3 a ***the Prophets*** : the writers of the books of the Bible that describe what will happen in the future **b** ***Prophets*** : the part of the Bible that includes the books written by the Prophets.

4 [*count*] : a person who states that something will happen in the future ▪ a stock market *prophet* [=a person who predicts what will happen in the stock market] ▪ the local weather *prophet* ▪ a ***prophet of doom*** [=someone who says that bad things will happen]

5 [*count*] : a person who teaches or spreads a new idea or belief ▪ a *prophet* of socialism

proph•et•ess /ˈprɑːfətəs/ *noun, pl* **-ess•es** [*count*] : a woman who is a prophet

pro•phet•ic /prəˈfɛtɪk/ *adj*

1 : correctly stating what will happen in the future ▪ Her warning proved to be *prophetic*. [=the thing that she warned would/could happen did happen] ▪ a *prophetic* statement

2 : of or relating to a prophet or to prophecy ▪ the *prophetic* books of the Old Testament

– **pro•phet•i•cal•ly** /prəˈfɛtɪkli/ *adv* ▪ The coach *prophetically* promised a victory in the next game.

¹pro•phy•lac•tic /ˌproʊfəˈlæktɪk, *Brit* ˌprɒfəˈlæktɪk/ *adj, medical* : designed to prevent disease ▪ a *prophylactic* drug/treatment/regimen ▪ the *prophylactic* use of antibiotics

²prophylactic *noun, pl* **-tics** [*count*]

1 *medical* : something that is designed to prevent the spread of disease or infection

2 *US* : CONDOM

pro•pi•ti•ate /proʊˈpɪʃiˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to make (someone) pleased or less angry by giving or saying something desired : APPEASE ▪ He made an offering to *propitiate* the angry gods.

– **pro•pi•ti•a•tion** /proʊˌpɪʃiˈeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **pro•pi•tia•to•ry** /proʊˈpɪʃijəˌtori, *Brit* prəʊˈpɪʃiətri/ *adj* ▪ a *propitiatory* offering to the gods

pro•pi•tious /prəˈpɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : likely to have or produce good results ▪ conditions that are *propitious* for growth [=conditions that make growth likely] ▪ Now is a *propitious* time to start a business.

pro•po•nent /prəˈpoʊnənt/ *noun, pl* **-nents** [*count*] : a person who argues for or supports something : ADVOCATE ▪ a civil rights *proponent* — often + *of* ▪ He is a leading *proponent of* gun control. — opposite OPPONENT

pro•por•tion /prəˈpoɚʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] : an amount that is a part of a whole ▪ Some of the money goes to cover expenses, but a large *proportion* [=*portion, percentage*] is donated to charity. — usually + *of* ▪ These expenses account for only a small *proportion of* our budget. ▪ The *proportion of* people who own their own homes is slowly increasing. ▪ The solution was made from equal *proportions of* water and bleach. ▪ A high *proportion of* high school students enroll in college. ▪ A large *proportion of* the proceeds are donated to charity. ▪ A small *proportion of* people in the group was left-handed.

2 : the relationship that exists between the size, number, or amount of two things [*count*] — usually singular; often + *of* ▪ The *proportion* [=*ratio*] *of* boys to girls in our class is three to one. [=there are three boys for each girl in our class] [*noncount*] Your share of the profits will be ***in proportion to*** the amount of work that you do. [=if you do more work, you will get a larger share of the profits]

3 : the correct or appropriate relationship between the size, shape, and position of the different parts of something [*noncount*] His head is large ***in proportion to*** his body. [=the size of his head seems large when compared to the size of his body] ▪ The garage is not *in proportion to* the house. [=the garage is too small/big for the house] ▪ His ears were drawn ***out of proportion with*** his head. ▪ The size of the window seems *out of proportion with* the height of the wall. [*count*] — usually plural ▪ The cathedral has classic *proportions*.

4 ***proportions*** [*plural*] : the size, shape, or extent of something ▪ The carpet did not fit the *proportions* [=*dimensions*] of the room. ▪ It's a problem of huge/massive *proportions*. ▪ It was a disaster of biblical/epic *proportions*. [=it was a terrible disaster that affected many people]

5 [*noncount*] **a** : the importance of something when it is compared to other things : the relative importance of things ▪ He has no ***sense of proportion***. **b** ✧ If you ***keep things in proportion***, you understand which things are truly important and you do not become upset by small things that are not important. ▪ Let's *keep things in proportion*. You should be able to wait one more day after you have waited two months already. **c** ✧ If something ***gets out of proportion*** or is ***blown out of proportion***, it becomes larger than it should be or it is treated as something worse or more important than it really is. ▪ Their fears have *gotten* (totally/completely) *out of proportion*. ▪ The story was *blown out of proportion* in the newspapers. ▪ You are ***blowing things*** (all/way) ***out of proportion***.

pro•por•tion•al /prəˈpoɚʃənl/ *adj*

1 : having a size, number, or amount that is directly related to or appropriate for something ▪ If you increase the size of the picture, keep the length and width *proportional*. [=increase the length and width by the same percentage so that they are related to each other in the same way] — often + *to* ▪ Keep the length *proportional to* the width. ▪ Your share of the profits will be *proportional to* the amount of work you did. ▪ The taxi fare is *proportional to* the length of the ride. — see also DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL, INVERSELY PROPORTIONAL

2 : having parts that are the correct or appropriate size in relation to each other ▪ The features of the face in the drawing are *proportional*. — often + *to* ▪ The head was not *proportional to* the body. [=the head was too large/small for the body] ▪ The sleeves were not *proportional to* the length of the blouse.

– **pro•por•tion•al•ly** /prəˈpoɚʃənl̩i/ *adv* ▪ The profits were divided *proportionally*. ▪ The ears were not drawn *proportionally* with the head.

proportional representation *noun* [*noncount*] : a system in which the number of seats held by members of a political party in a legislature (such as a parliament) is determined by the number of votes its candidates receive in an election

pro•por•tion•ate /prəˈpoɚʃənət/ *adj* : PROPORTIONAL 1 ▪ Each investor will receive a *proportionate* share of the profits. — often + *to* ▪ The property tax is *proportionate to* the size of the house.

– **pro•por•tion•ate•ly** *adv* ▪ The profits were divided *proportionately*. ▪ If your sales increase, then your salary will be adjusted *proportionately*.

pro•por•tioned /prə'poəʃənd/ *adj* : having parts that relate in size to the other parts in a particular way ▪ The sculpture was poorly *proportioned*. ▪ She has a well-*proportioned* figure.

pro•pos•al /prə'poʊzəl/ *noun, pl* **-als**

1 [*count*] : something (such as a plan or suggestion) that is presented to a person or group of people to consider ▪ Everyone thought the *proposal* made sense. ▪ They rejected/accepted/considered/approved my *proposal*. ▪ The committee is reviewing the *proposal* for the new restaurant. ▪ They put forth a *proposal* to sell the company. ▪ a business *proposal*

2 [*noncount*] : the act of presenting a plan, suggestion, etc., to a person or group of people ▪ These problems have led to the *proposal* of a new law.

3 [*count*] : the act of asking someone to marry you ▪ She accepted his *proposal* (of marriage). ▪ a marriage *proposal*

pro•pose /prə'poʊz/ *verb* **-pos•es**; **-posed**; **-pos•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to suggest (something, such as a plan or theory) to a person or group of people to consider ▪ The scientists *proposed* a new theory. ▪ The mayor *proposed* a plan for a new bridge. ▪ Several senators have *proposed* raising the tax. ▪ I *propose* that we revise the bylaws.

2 [+ *obj*] : to plan or intend to do (something) ▪ They *propose* to buy a new house. ▪ How do you *propose* solving this problem?

3 [+ *obj*] : to suggest (someone) for a job, position, office, etc. ▪ The chairman *proposed* the young executive as a candidate for promotion. ▪ She *proposed* [=(more commonly) *nominated*] her teacher for the award.

4 : to ask someone to marry you — often + *to* [*no obj*] He *proposed to* his girlfriend. [+ *obj*] He ***proposed marriage to*** his girlfriend.

propose a toast : to publicly wish a person future health, happiness, and success and ask others to raise their glasses and join in a drink ▪ I would like to *propose a toast* to the bride and groom.

– **proposed** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ They rejected the *proposed* offer/plan. – **pro•pos•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ He is the original *proposer* of the theory.

[1]prop•o•si•tion /ˌprɑːpə'zɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*]

1 : something (such as a plan or offer) that is presented to a person or group of people to consider ▪ He made an attractive business *proposition*. ▪ The other company rejected their *proposition*.

2 : a statement to be proved, explained, or discussed ▪ Her theory rejects the basic *proposition* that humans evolved from apes. ▪ If we accept *proposition* "A" as true, then we must accept *proposition* "B" as false.

3 : something that someone intends to do or deal with ▪ Fixing the engine will not be an easy/simple *proposition*. [=*matter*] ▪ The election will be a tough *proposition* for the mayor. ▪ The farm will never be a paying *proposition*. [=the farm will never make money]

4 *US* : a suggestion for a change in the law on which people must vote ▪ The town voted in favor of a *proposition* calling for a ban on smoking in public spaces. ▪ He expects *Proposition* 12 to pass by a wide margin.

[2]proposition *verb* **-tions**; **-tioned**; **-tion•ing** [+ *obj*] : to offer to have sex with (someone) in a direct and often offensive way ▪ He was *propositioned* by a prostitute. ▪ He got drunk and *propositioned* a woman sitting next to him in the bar.

pro•pound /prə'paʊnd/ *verb* **-pounds**; **-pound•ed**; **-pound•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to suggest (an idea, theory, etc.) to a person or group of people to consider : PROPOSE ▪ Her new book expands upon the theory *propounded* in her first book.

– **pro•pound•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

pro•pri•e•tary /prə'prajəˌteri, *Brit* prə'prajətri/ *adj, formal*

1 : of or like that of an owner ▪ The publisher has *proprietary* rights [=the rights of an owner] to the manuscript. ▪ The investors have a *proprietary* interest in the land.

2 : used, made, or sold only by the particular person or company that has the legal right to do so ▪ The computer comes with the manufacturer's *proprietary* software. ▪ a *proprietary* drug ▪ "Merriam-Webster" is a *proprietary* name.

3 : kept private by an owner ▪ The journalist tried to get access to *proprietary* information.

pro•pri•e•tor /prə'prajətə/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] *formal* : a person who owns a business or property ▪ She is the *proprietor* of the store. ▪ a restaurant *proprietor*

– **pro•pri•e•tor•ship** /prə'prajətəˌʃɪp/ *noun, pl* **-ships** [*count*] The business is a sole *proprietorship* and not a partnership. [*noncount*] He was given *proprietorship* of the store.

pro•pri•e•tress /prə'prajətrəs/ *noun, pl* **-tress•es** [*count*] *formal* : a woman who is a proprietor

pro•pri•e•ty /prə'prajəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** *formal*

1 [*noncount*] : behavior that is accepted as socially or morally correct and proper ▪ She acted with *propriety*. ▪ He went beyond the bounds of *propriety*. [=he acted improperly] ▪ She conducted herself with *propriety*.

2 [*noncount*] : the state or quality of being correct and proper ▪ They debated the *propriety* of the punishment that he was given.

3 ***proprieties*** [*plural*] : rules of correct social behavior ▪ When attending a wedding, there are certain *proprieties* that must be observed. ▪ the social *proprieties*

props /'prɑːps/ *noun* [*plural*] *US slang*

1 : something that is said to publicly thank and give special attention to someone for doing something : credit or recognition ▪ *Props* to everyone that made this movie a success. ▪ All of the performers deserve ***mad props***. [=very enthusiastic praise] — often + *for* ▪ He gave *props* to his brother *for* his help with the project.

2 : RESPECT ▪ The teacher earned our *props*.

pro•pul•sion /prə'pʌlʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : the force that moves something forward : the force that propels something ▪ rocket/electric *propulsion* ▪ Sailboats use wind as their source/means of *propulsion*. ▪ a *propulsion* system — see also JET PROPULSION

– **pro•pul•sive** /prə'pʌlsɪv/ *adj* ▪ *propulsive* forces

pro ra•ta /proʊ'reɪtə/ *adj, formal* : calculated according to the specific amount that someone has done, used, etc. ▪ Each investor will receive a *pro rata* share of the profits. [=a share based on how much money each person invested]

– **pro rata** *adv* ▪ The fee will be paid *pro rata* to the people who did the work.

pro•rate /proʊ'reɪt/ *verb* **-rates**; **-rat•ed**; **-rat•ing** [+ *obj*] *US* : to calculate (something) according to the specific amount that someone has done, used, etc. ▪ We will *prorate* your monthly rent for the remaining 10 days on your lease. [=you will pay 10 days' worth of a month's rent] ▪ The player's annual salary was *prorated* because he only played for the last three months of the season.

– **pro•ra•tion** /proʊ'reɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

pro•sa•ic /proʊ'zejɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : dull or ordinary ▪ He has a *prosaic* writing style. ▪ the *prosaic* life of a hardworking farmer ▪ She believes the noises are made by ghosts, but I think there's a more *prosaic* explanation.

– **pro•sa•i•cal•ly** /proʊ'zejəkli/ *adv*

pro•sce•ni•um /proʊ'siːnijəm/ *noun, pl* **-ums** [*count*] : the part of a stage that is in front of the curtain ▪ The host walked onto the *proscenium*. ▪ a ***proscenium arch*** [=an arch that is over the front of a stage]

pro•sciut•to /proʊ'ʃuːtoʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of spicy Italian ham

pro•scribe /proʊ'skraɪb/ *verb* **-scribes**; **-scribed**; **-scribing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to make (something) illegal : to not allow (something) ▪ The principal *proscribed* [=*banned, prohibited*] the use of cell phones in school. ▪ acts that are *proscribed* by law ▪ *proscribed* conduct

– **pro•scrip•tion** /proʊ'skrɪpʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*]

prose /'proʊz/ *noun* [*noncount*] : writing that is not poetry : ordinary writing ▪ She writes in very clear *prose*. — often used before another noun ▪ She has a unique *prose* style. ▪ He is a talented *prose* writer. ▪ a *prose* narrative

pros•e•cute /'prɑːsɪˌkjuːt/ *verb* **-cutes**; **-cut•ed**; **-cut•ing**

1 *law* : to hold a trial against a person who is accused of a crime to see if that person is guilty [*no obj*] The store's owner agreed not to *prosecute* if the boy returned the stolen goods. [+ *obj*] Shoplifters will be *prosecuted*.

2 : to work as a lawyer to try to prove a case against someone accused of a crime [+ *obj*] The case is being *prosecuted* by the assistant district attorney. [*no obj*] the *prosecuting* lawyer/counsel

3 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to continue to do (something) : to proceed with (something) ▪ She criticized the government for the way it has *prosecuted* the war.

– **pros•e•cut•able** /ˌprɑːsə'kjuːtəbəl/ *adj* ▪ a *prosecutable* offense

prosecuting attorney *noun, pl* ~ **-neys** [*count*] *US* : DISTRICT ATTORNEY

pros•e•cu•tion /ˌprɑːsɪ'kjuːʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 : the act or process of holding a trial against a person who is accused of a crime to see if that person is guilty [*count*] There has been an increase in *prosecutions* for gun-related crimes. [*noncount*] The defendant is awaiting *prosecution*.
2 *the prosecution* : the side of a legal case which argues that a person who is accused of a crime is guilty : the lawyer or lawyers who prosecute someone in a court case ▪ *The prosecution* called their first witness. ▪ *The prosecution* rests, Your Honor. ▪ The defense told the jury that *the prosecution* had not proved its case. — often used before another noun ▪ *prosecution* attorneys/lawyers — compare DEFENSE
3 [*noncount*] *formal* : the act of doing or continuing to do something — usually + *of* ▪ the *prosecution of* the war

pros•e•cu•tor /ˈprɑːsɪˌkjuːtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : a lawyer who represents the side in a court case that accuses a person of a crime and who tries to prove that the person is guilty

pros•e•ly•tize *also Brit* **pros•e•ly•tise** /ˈprɑːsələˌtaɪz/ *verb* **-tiz•es; -tized; -tiz•ing** *formal + often disapproving* : to try to persuade people to join a religion, cause, or group [*no obj*] He uses his position to *proselytize* for the causes that he supports. [+ *obj*] *proselytize* a faith/religion

pro shop *noun, pl* ~ **shops** [*count*] : a shop where equipment for a sport (such as golf or tennis) is sold usually by people who play or teach the sport professionally

pros•o•dy /ˈprɑːsədi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : the rhythm and pattern of sounds of poetry and language

[1]pros•pect /ˈprɑːˌspɛkt/ *noun, pl* **-pects**
1 : the possibility that something will happen in the future [*singular*] the frightening *prospect* of going to war ▪ She is excited by the *prospect* of returning to school. ▪ Bankruptcy is an unlikely *prospect* for the company. [*noncount*] There was no/little *prospect* that the two parties would reach an agreement anytime soon.
2 [*count*] : an opportunity for something to happen — usually plural ▪ He has few *prospects* for employment. ▪ She has a lot of business *prospects*. = She has a lot of *prospects* for doing business.
3 [*count*] : someone or something that is likely to succeed or to be chosen ▪ a young baseball player who's considered a top *prospect* ▪ We haven't decided which car to buy yet. We're still looking at a few *prospects*.
4 [*count*] *formal* : a wide view of an area from usually a high place — usually singular; usually + *of* ▪ a wide *prospect of* the surrounding country
in prospect *formal* : possible or likely to exist or happen in the future ▪ A great medical breakthrough is *in prospect*. [=expected in the future]

[2]pros•pect /ˈprɑːˌspɛkt, *Brit* prəˈspɛkt/ *verb* **-pects; -pect•ed; -pect•ing** [*no obj*] : to search an area for gold, minerals, oil, etc. — often + *for* ▪ Men were *prospecting for* gold along the river. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The team actively *prospects for* talented players.
– **pros•pec•tor** /ˈprɑːˌspɛktɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ a gold/oil *prospector* – **prospecting** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ oil *prospecting*

pro•spec•tive /prəˈspɛktɪv/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : likely to be or become something specified in the future ▪ a seminar for *prospective* home buyers [=people who are likely to buy a home fairly soon] ▪ *prospective* parents/students/employers
2 *formal* : likely to happen ▪ The new law has many *prospective* [=*expected*] benefits.

pro•spec•tus /prəˈspɛktəs/ *noun, pl* **-tus•es** [*count*]
1 : a printed statement that describes something (such as a new business or investment) and that is sent to people who may want to be involved in it or invest in it
2 *chiefly Brit* : a book or document that provides information about a school, business, etc. : BROCHURE

pros•per /ˈprɑːspɚ/ *verb* **-pers; -pered; -per•ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to become very successful usually by making a lot of money ▪ She *prospered* as a real estate agent. ▪ He hopes his business will *prosper*.
2 : to become very active, healthy, or strong ▪ The city *prospered* [=*flourished, thrived*] as a center for trade. ▪ No crop can *prosper* in this heat. ▪ The economy is *prospering*.

pros•per•i•ty /prɑˈspɛrəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the state of being successful usually by making a lot of money ▪ a period of *prosperity* for our nation ▪ economic *prosperity*

pros•per•ous /ˈprɑːspərəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having success usually by making a lot of money ▪ The company had a *prosperous* year. ▪ He predicted a *prosperous* future. ▪ *prosperous* [=*affluent*] merchants ▪ a *prosperous* town

pros•tate /ˈprɑːˌsteɪt/ *noun, pl* **-tates** [*count*] : PROSTATE GLAND ▪ enlargement of the *prostate* — often used before another noun ▪ *prostate* cancer

prostate gland *noun, pl* ~ **glands** [*count*] : an organ found in men and male animals that produces the liquid in which sperm is carried

pros•the•sis /prɑsˈθiːsəs/ *noun, pl* **-the•ses** /-ˌsiːz/ [*count*] *medical* : an artificial device that replaces a missing or injured part of the body ▪ She was fitted with a *prosthesis* to replace her missing leg. ▪ a dental/optical *prosthesis*
– **pros•thet•ic** /prɑsˈθɛtɪk/ *adj* ▪ She wears a *prosthetic* leg.

[1]pros•ti•tute /ˈprɑːstəˌtuːt, *Brit* ˈprɒstəˌtjuːt/ *noun, pl* **-tutes** [*count*] : a person who has sex with someone in exchange for money

[2]prostitute *verb* **-tutes; -tut•ed; -tut•ing** [+ *obj*] : to use (something valuable, such as talent) in a way that is not appropriate or respectable and especially to earn money ▪ a writer who *prostituted* his talents by writing commercials
prostitute yourself **1** : to work as a prostitute : to offer yourself for sex in exchange for money ▪ She *prostituted herself* for drug money. **2** : to do something that is below your level of skill or ability in order to make money ▪ a writer who *prostituted himself* by writing commercials

pros•ti•tu•tion /ˌprɑːstəˈtuːʃən, *Brit* ˌprɒstəˈtjuːʃən/ *noun*
1 [*noncount*] : the work of a prostitute : the act of having sex in exchange for money ▪ She was arrested for *prostitution*.
2 [*singular*] : the use of a skill or ability in a way that is not appropriate or respectable ▪ Writing commercials was a *prostitution* of his talents.

[1]pros•trate /ˈprɑːˌstreɪt/ *adj*
1 : lying with the front of your body turned toward the ground ▪ The police found the body in a *prostrate* position. ▪ a *prostrate* body ▪ She was ***lying prostrate*** on the bed.
2 : so tired, upset, etc., that you are unable to do anything ▪ They were *prostrate* from/with the heat. ▪ He was *prostrate* with grief. [=he was completely overcome by grief]

[2]pros•trate /ˈprɑːˌstreɪt, *Brit* prəˈstreɪt/ *verb* **-trates; -trat•ed; -trat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) weak or powerless — usually used as *(be) prostrated* ▪ She *was prostrated* [=*overcome*] with/by grief.
prostrate yourself : to lie down with your face turned toward the ground ▪ The worshippers *prostrated themselves* on the ground before the shrine.
– **pros•tra•tion** /prɑˈstreɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*] ▪ The campers suffered from ***heat prostration***. [=physical exhaustion caused by heat]

pro•tag•o•nist /proʊˈtægənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-nists** [*count*]
1 : the main character in a novel, play, movie, etc.
2 : an important person who is involved in a competition, conflict, or cause ▪ She was a leading *protagonist* in the civil rights movement.

pro•te•an /ˈproʊtijən/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *literary + formal* : able to change into many different forms or able to do many different things ▪ a *protean* organism ▪ a *protean* actor

pro•tect /prəˈtɛkt/ *verb* **-tects; -tect•ed; -tect•ing**
1 : to keep (someone or something) from being harmed, lost, etc. [+ *obj*] He had no raincoat to *protect* himself from the rain. ▪ She keeps her jewelry *protected* in a safe. ▪ You have to *protect* your business against fraud. ▪ New laws have been passed to *protect* your privacy. ▪ The forest is *protected* by/under federal law. ▪ The high taxes on imported goods are intended to *protect* domestic producers. [*no obj*] Sunscreen helps to ***protect against*** sunburn.
2 : to save (someone) from financial loss caused by fire, injury, damage, etc. — usually + *against* [+ *obj*] The insurance *protects* you *against* flooding. [*no obj*] The insurance does not *protect against* damage caused by earthquakes.
3 [+ *obj*] *sports* : to try to stop opponents from scoring at (your goal) ▪ The goalie slipped and fell, but the defenseman was there to *protect* [=*defend*] the goal.
– **protected** *adj, always used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *protected* area/species ▪ *protected* industries/markets

pro•tec•tion /prəˈtɛkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*noncount*] : the state of being kept from harm, loss, etc. : the state of being protected ▪ He fights for the *protection* of the environment. ▪ Hard hats provide *protection* for the workers' heads. ▪ The witness was placed ***under police protection***. — often + *against* ▪ The ointment offers *protection against* infection. — often + *from* ▪ The law ensures your *protection from* illegal searches.
2 : something that keeps a person or thing from being

harmed, lost, etc. : something that protects someone or something [*count*] legal *protections* — often + *against* ▪ *protections against* sexual harassment — often + *from* ▪ She used her briefcase as a *protection from* the rain. [*noncount*] — often + *against* ▪ She used her briefcase as *protection against* the rain. — often + *from* ▪ The rabbit's white fur serves as *protection from* predators during the winter.

3 [*noncount*] : a device (such as a condom) that is used during sex to prevent pregnancy or the spread of diseases ▪ Do you have *protection*?

4 [*noncount*] : insurance against financial loss caused by fire, injury, damage, etc. — often + *against* ▪ The policy offers complete *protection against* fire and theft.

5 [*noncount*] : a situation in which people (such as store owners) pay money to criminals so that the criminals will not hurt them or damage their property ▪ His store was burned down because he refused to pay for *protection*. — often used before another noun ▪ *protection* money ▪ a *protection* racket

pro•tec•tion•ism /prə'tɛkʃəˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the practice of helping businesses and industries in your own country by making laws that limit and tax products imported from other countries

– **pro•tec•tion•ist** /prə'tɛkʃənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ *Protectionists* are in favor of the new tariff. – **protectionist** *adj* ▪ *protectionist* policies

pro•tec•tive /prə'tɛktɪv/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* : used to protect someone or something : giving or meant to give protection ▪ He put a *protective* cover over the car. ▪ *protective* clothing/gear ▪ The police are keeping her in ***protective custody***. [=in jail and away from others so that she will not be harmed]

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : having or showing a strong desire to protect someone or something from harm ▪ an overly *protective* mother — often + *of* ▪ She is very *protective of* her children.

– **pro•tec•tive•ly** *adv* ▪ She kept her hand *protectively* on her purse. – **pro•tec•tive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

pro•tec•tor /prə'tɛktɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : a person or thing that protects someone or something ▪ She sees her older brother as her *protector*. ▪ a *protector* of free speech ▪ ear *protectors* — see also SURGE PROTECTOR

pro•tec•tor•ate /prə'tɛktərət/ *noun, pl* **-ates** [*count*] : a small country that is controlled and protected by a larger one

pro•té•gé /'proʊtəˌʒeɪ/ *noun, pl* **-gés** [*count*] : a young person who is taught and helped by someone who has a lot of knowledge and experience ▪ He was a *protégé* of the great composer.

pro•té•gée /'proʊtəˌʒeɪ/ *noun, pl* **-gées** [*count*] : a woman who is a protégé

pro•tein /'proʊˌti:n/ *noun, pl* **-teins** : a substance found in foods (such as meat, milk, eggs, and beans) that is an important part of the human diet [*noncount*] You need more *protein* in your diet. ▪ These foods are an excellent source of *protein*. [*count*] These foods have all of the essential *proteins*.

pro tem /ˌproʊ'tɛm/ *adv, formal* : for the present time but not permanently ▪ He is serving as the chairman *pro tem*. [=*temporarily*]

– **pro tem** *adj* ▪ the president *pro tem* [=the temporary president] of the U.S. Senate

pro tem•po•re /proʊ'tɛmpəri/ *adv, formal* : PRO TEM

– **pro tempore** *adj*

[1]pro•test /prə'tɛst/ *verb* **-tests**; **-test•ed**; **-test•ing**

1 a : to show or express strong disagreement with or disapproval of something [*no obj*] The victim's family *protested* at/against the judge's sentence. ▪ There is no use *protesting*. I will not change my mind. [+ *obj*] (*US*) ▪ The coach *protested* the referee's call. ▪ The decision was *protested* by dozens of people. **b** /'proʊˌtɛst/ : to show or express strong disapproval of something at a public event with other people [*no obj*] Students *protested* at the civil rights rally. ▪ They were *protesting* against the death penalty. [+ *obj*] (*US*) ▪ Peace activists *protested* the war.

2 [+ *obj*] : to say (something that other people do not agree with or believe) in a forceful way ▪ The defendant *protested* [=*declared*] his innocence in court. ▪ She *protested* that the law was unfair. ▪ "But I'm innocent!" he *protested*.

– **pro•test•er** *or* **pro•tes•tor** /prə'tɛstɚ, 'proʊˌtɛstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** *or* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ student *protesters*

[2]pro•test /'proʊˌtɛst/ *noun, pl* **-tests**

1 : something said or done that shows disagreement with or disapproval of something [*count*] He heard *protests* from the crowd. ▪ She told him to go to bed despite his *protests* that he wasn't tired. [*noncount*] There were cries/howls of *protest* when the verdict was announced. ▪ The suspect surrendered his gun without *protest*. ▪ She was so upset by their decision that she resigned ***in protest***. ▪ He paid the fine ***under protest*** [=he paid the fine although he objected to it]

2 [*count*] : an event at which people gather together to show strong disapproval about something ▪ The students launched/held/staged a *protest* against the tuition increase. ▪ an antiwar *protest* ▪ a *protest* march/demonstration/rally

Prot•es•tant /'prɑ:təstənt/ *noun, pl* **-tants** [*count*] : a member of one of the Christian churches that separated from the Roman Catholic Church in the 16th century

– **Protestant** *adj* ▪ a *Protestant* minister – **Prot•es•tant•ism** /'prɑ:təstənˌtɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]

pro•tes•ta•tion /ˌprɑ:tə'steɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *formal* : a strong statement that something is true when other people do not believe it is true ▪ Despite his *protestations* to the contrary, he appears to be guilty. — often + *of* ▪ The police ignored his *protestations of* innocence.

pro•to•col /'proʊtəˌkɑ:l/ *noun, pl* **-cols**

1 : a system of rules that explain the correct conduct and procedures to be followed in formal situations [*noncount*] The soldier's actions constitute a breach of military *protocol*. [*count*] They did not follow the proper diplomatic *protocols*. ▪ What is the proper *protocol* for declining a job offer?

2 [*count*] : a plan for a scientific experiment or for medical treatment ▪ an experimental *protocol* ▪ a simplified treatment *protocol*

3 [*count*] *formal* : a document that describes the details of a treaty or formal agreement between countries ▪ the Geneva *Protocol* of 1925

4 [*count*] *computers* : a set of rules used in programming computers so that they can communicate with each other ▪ an Internet *protocol*

pro•ton /'proʊˌtɑ:n/ *noun, pl* **-tons** [*count*] *physics* : a very small particle of matter that is part of the nucleus of an atom and that has a positive electrical charge

pro•to•plasm /'proʊtəˌplæzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] *biology* : the usually colorless substance that is the living part of animal and plant cells

pro•to•type /'proʊtəˌtaɪp/ *noun, pl* **-types** [*count*]

1 : an original or first model of something from which other forms are copied or developed ▪ They tested the *prototype* of the car. ▪ He is developing a *prototype* for his invention.

2 a : someone or something that has the typical qualities of a particular group, kind, etc. ▪ He is the *prototype* of a conservative businessman. **b** : a first or early example that is used as a model for what comes later ▪ The Sherlock Holmes stories are the *prototypes* of modern detective stories.

pro•to•typ•i•cal /ˌproʊtə'tɪpɪkəl/ *adj* : having the typical qualities of a particular group or kind of person or thing : very typical ▪ a *prototypical* gangster ▪ *prototypical* horror movies

pro•to•zo•an /ˌproʊtə'zowən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*] : a tiny organism whose body is a single cell ▪ Amoebas are *protozoans*.

pro•to•zo•on /ˌproʊtə'zoʊˌɑ:n/ *noun, pl* **-zoa** /-'zowə/ [*count*] : PROTOZOAN

pro•tract•ed /proʊ'træktəd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : lasting a long time : continuing longer than necessary or expected ▪ They reached an agreement after *protracted* [=*lengthy*] negotiations. ▪ a *protracted* battle/conflict/war

pro•trac•tor /proʊ'træktɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : a device that has the form of a half circle and that is used for drawing and measuring angles

pro•trude /proʊ'tru:d/ *verb* **-trudes**; **-trud•ed**; **-trud•ing** [*no obj*] : to stick out ▪ His lower jaw *protrudes* slightly. ▪ A handkerchief *protruded* from his shirt pocket.

– **protruding** *adj* ▪ He has a *protruding* jaw.

pro•tru•sion /proʊ'tru:ʒən/ *noun, pl* **-sions**

1 [*count*] : a part that sticks out ▪ bony *protrusions* on the outside of the elbow ▪ a roof with many *protrusions*

2 [*count, noncount*] : the act of sticking out or the condition of something that sticks out ▪ The pain was caused by a/the *protrusion* of a disc in his lower back.

pro•tu•ber•ance /proʊ'tu:bərəns, *Brit* prəʊ'tju:bərəns/ *noun, pl* **-anc•es** [*count*] : a usually rounded part that sticks out from a surface ▪ There was a small *protuberance* [=*bulge*] on the skull.

pro•tu•ber•ant /proʊ'tu:bərənt, *Brit* prəʊ'tju:bərənt/ *adj*

[*more* ~; *most* ~] : sticking out from a surface usually with a curved or rounded shape ▪ slightly *protuberant* [=*bulging*] eyes/lips

proud /ˈpraʊd/ *adj* **proud•er**; **-est** [*or more* ~; *most* ~]

1 a : very happy and pleased because of something you have done, something you own, someone you know or are related to, etc. : feeling pride ▪ They are the *proud* parents of a hero. ▪ I was *proud* that I never gave in. ▪ She's the *proud* owner of a new car. — often + *of* ▪ I am *proud of* what we have accomplished. ▪ She's very *proud of* her daughter. ▪ He has a record to be *proud of*. — sometimes followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ I'm *proud to know* him. **b :** causing someone to feel very happy and pleased : causing a feeling of pride ▪ It was one of the *proudest* moments of my life. [=when I felt most proud] ▪ Her *proudest* accomplishment was to finish school.

2 *disapproving* : having or showing the attitude of people who think that they are better or more important than others : having or showing too much pride ▪ He has a *proud* manner. ▪ a *proud* and opinionated person

3 : not wanting to lose the respect of other people : not willing to accept help from other people ▪ She's too *proud* to accept their charity.

4 : excellent or impressive ▪ They have a *proud* record of public service. ▪ a *proud* [=large and impressive] castle

5 *literary, of an animal* : having a lot of strength and spirit ▪ a *proud* horse/stallion

do (someone) proud : to give someone a reason to feel proud ▪ It *did me proud* [=made me feel proud] to watch her graduate from college. ▪ She *did her family proud* by standing up for her beliefs. ▪ His performance in the game *did us* (all) *proud*. ▪ She ***did herself proud***. [=she did well; she did something that she can be proud of]

– **proud•ly** *adv* ▪ The new citizen was standing *proudly* and happily with his family. ▪ He spoke *proudly* of his son's achievements. ▪ She *proudly* showed off her awards. ▪ The building stands *proudly* on a hillside.

prove /ˈpru:v/ *verb* **proves**; **proved**; **proved** *or chiefly US* **prov•en** /ˈpru:vən/; **prov•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to show the existence, truth, or correctness of (something) by using evidence, logic, etc. ▪ The charges against him were never *proved* in court. ▪ The government failed to *prove* its case. ▪ We have evidence that will *prove* his guilt. = We have evidence that will *prove* that he is guilty. ▪ It could not be *proven* that the suspect stole the money. ▪ A person who is charged with a crime is considered innocent until *proved/proven* guilty. ▪ mathematicians trying to *prove* a theorem ▪ He climbed the mountain just to *prove* [=*show*] (that) he could. ▪ ***What are you trying to prove*** by behaving so recklessly? [=why are you behaving so recklessly?] ▪ I've accomplished everything I wanted to; ***I've got nothing left to prove***. [=I do not have to do anything more to show that I am skillful, successful, etc.] ▪ He's willing to do almost anything to ***prove a point***. [=to show that he is right about something] ▪ To ***prove her point***, she got out the old research. — opposite DISPROVE

2 [+ *obj*] : to show that (someone or something) has a particular quality, ability, etc. ▪ We have evidence that will *prove* him (to be) guilty. [=that will prove that he is guilty] ▪ The tests *proved* the vaccine to be effective. ▪ Her second album was a hit that *proved* her critics wrong.

3 [*linking verb*] : to turn out to be — used to say that something or someone is eventually found to have a particular quality, ability, etc. ▪ The new drug may *prove* (to be) beneficial/effective. ▪ The vaccine has *proven* (to be) effective after years of tests. ▪ It may *prove* difficult/impossible to do this. ▪ The report of the war's end *proved* (to be) false. ▪ The book should *prove* helpful to many people. ▪ The new system could *prove* to be as bad as the old one was.

prove yourself : to show that you are able to do something or to succeed ▪ She was eager to *prove herself* in her new job. ▪ She has *proven herself* (to be) capable of excellent work. [=she has shown that she is capable of excellent work]

– **prov•able** /ˈpru:vəbəl/ *adj* ▪ The case will not be easily *provable*.

prov•e•nance /ˈpra:vənəns/ *noun, pl* **-nanc•es** *formal* : the origin or source of something [*count*] Has anyone traced the *provenances* of these paintings? ▪ The saying has its *provenance* in [=comes from] Greek myth. [*noncount*] The artifact is of unknown *provenance*.

prov•en•der /ˈpra:vəndɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *old-fashioned* : FOOD ▪ a supply of *provender*

prov•erb /ˈpra:ˌvɚb/ *noun, pl* **-erbs** [*count*] : a brief popular saying (such as "Too many cooks spoil the broth") that gives advice about how people should live or that expresses a belief that is generally thought to be true

pro•ver•bi•al /prəˈvɚbijəl/ *adj*

1 : of, relating to, or resembling a proverb ▪ *proverbial* wisdom ▪ a *proverbial* expression/phrase

2 : commonly spoken of : widely known ▪ the *proverbial* beginner's luck ▪ His generosity is *proverbial*.

– **pro•ver•bi•al•ly** *adv*

pro•vide /prəˈvaɪd/ *verb* **-vides**; **-vid•ed**; **-vid•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a :** to make (something) available : to supply (something that is wanted or needed) ▪ The Web site *provides* information about local activities. ▪ The curtains on the windows *provide* privacy. ▪ The school *provided* new uniforms for the band. ▪ The goal is to *provide* health care to/for as many people as possible. ▪ The store *provides* excellent service (to its customers). ▪ Coffee and doughnuts will be *provided* at the meeting. **b :** to give something wanted or needed to (someone or something) : to supply (someone or something) *with* something ▪ The Web site *provides* users *with* information about local activities. ▪ The school *provided* the band *with* new uniforms. ▪ The store *provides* its customers *with* excellent service. ▪ Workers were *provided with* gloves for protection.

2 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to say that something will or should happen : to make it certain or possible that something will happen or be done ▪ The contract *provides* that certain deadlines will be met. ▪ The law *provides* that minors will be treated differently from adults.

3 [*no obj*] : to supply what is needed for someone to live ▪ All we can do is work hard and trust that the Lord will *provide*.

provide against [*phrasal verb*] ***provide against (something)*** : to do what is needed to prepare for (something bad that might happen) ▪ We should store extra supplies now to *provide against* a possible scarcity in the coming months.

provide for [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***provide for (something)*** : to cause (something) to be available or to happen in the future ▪ The contract *provides for* 10 paid holidays. ▪ The grant *provides for* more research. ▪ The law *provides for* the appointment of a new official. **2** ***provide for (something or someone)*** : to supply what is needed for (something or someone) ▪ It's hard to make enough money to *provide for* such a large family. ▪ They agreed to *provide for* the child's education.

provided *conj* : IF — used to say that one thing must happen or be true in order for another thing to happen ▪ You can make the change if you want, *provided* (that) the change makes sense. ▪ You can still get health care, *provided* (that) you pay the cost yourself.

Prov•i•dence /ˈpra:vədəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] : God or fate thought of as the guide and protector of all human beings ▪ He put his faith in divine *Providence*.

prov•i•dent /ˈpra:vədənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : careful about planning for the future and saving money for the future ▪ *provident* people ▪ a more *provident* policy

– **prov•i•dent•ly** *adv*

prov•i•den•tial /ˌpra:vəˈdɛnʃəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : happening at a good time because of luck : LUCKY ▪ We had made a *providential* escape. ▪ It seemed *providential* that he should arrive at just that moment.

– **prov•i•den•tial•ly** *adv*

pro•vi•der /prəˈvaɪdɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ders** [*count*]

1 : a group or company that provides a specified service ▪ health-care *providers* ▪ an Internet *provider* = a *provider* of Internet service

2 : a person (such as a mother or father) who earns the money that is needed to support a family ▪ She works hard and is a good *provider*. ▪ He is the sole *provider* for his family.

providing *conj* : IF — used to say that one thing must happen or be true in order for another thing to happen ▪ We can have a picnic tomorrow, *providing* [=*as long as*] it doesn't rain. ▪ *Providing* we have the money, we'll travel to Europe.

prov•ince /ˈpra:vəns/ *noun, pl* **-inces**

1 [*count*] : any one of the large parts that some countries are divided into ▪ the Canadian *provinces*

2 [*count*] : a subject or area of interest that a person knows about or is involved in — usually singular ▪ It's a legal question that is/falls outside my *province*. [=it does not relate to the area that I know about] ▪ That subject is the special *province* of this magazine. ▪ Study in that area had once been the exclusive/sole *province* of academics.

3 *the provinces* : the parts of a country that are away from large cities ▪ They left the city for life in *the provinces*.

[1]pro•vin•cial /prə'vɪnʃəl/ *adj*
1 : of, relating to, or coming from a province ▪ a *provincial* official ▪ She speaks with a *provincial* accent.
2 [*more ~; most ~*] *disapproving* : not knowing or caring about people and events in other places : having narrow or limited concerns or interests ▪ an artist who has been criticized for being *provincial* and old-fashioned ▪ His *provincial* attitude was a source of irritation for her. ▪ She is too *provincial* to try foreign foods.
– **pro•vin•cial•ism** /prə'vɪnʃəˌlɪzəm/ *noun, pl* **-isms** *disapproving* [*noncount*] He grew tired of the narrow *provincialism* of his hometown. [*count*] the prejudices and *provincialisms* of his hometown

[2]provincial *noun, pl* **-cials** [*count*] : a person who lives in or comes from a place that is far away from large cities — often used in a disapproving way to suggest that such a person has narrow or limited concerns or interests ▪ an artist who has been dismissed as a *provincial*

proving ground *noun, pl ~* **grounds** [*count*]
1 : a place where things or people are tested or tried out for the first time — often + *for* ▪ The local racetrack became a *proving ground for* new jockeys.
2 : a place where scientific testing is done

[1]pro•vi•sion /prə'vɪʒən/ *noun, pl* **-sions**
1 [*noncount*] : the act or process of supplying or providing something ▪ They saw to the *provision* of transportation for the trip. [=they made sure that transportation was provided]
2 : something that is done in advance to prepare for something else [*count*] *Provisions* should be made for regular inspections. ▪ He made *provisions* to donate part of his fortune to charity after he died. [*noncount*] You should ***make provision*** for emergencies.
3 *provisions* [*plural*] : a supply of food and other things that are needed ▪ I carried my *provisions* in one large backpack. ▪ We brought enough *provisions* to last the entire trip.
4 [*count*] : a condition that is included as part of an agreement or law ▪ You can enroll in the book club with the *provision* that you buy more books. [=you can enroll if you agree to buy more books] ▪ Under the *provisions* of the contract, the work must be completed in two months.

[2]provision *verb* **-sions**; **-sioned**; **-sion•ing** [+ *obj*] : to supply (someone or something) with provisions and especially with food ▪ They stopped to *provision* the ship.

pro•vi•sion•al /prə'vɪʒənl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : existing or accepted for the present time but likely to be changed : TEMPORARY ▪ a *provisional* government ▪ *provisional* arrangements ▪ The government has given *provisional* approval for the use of the new drug.
– **pro•vi•sion•al•ly** *adv* ▪ The government has *provisionally* approved the use of the new drug.

provisional licence *noun, pl ~* **-cences** [*count*] *Brit* : LEARNER'S PERMIT

pro•vi•so /prə'vaɪzoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-sos** [*count*] : a condition that must be accepted in order for someone to agree to do something ▪ He accepted the job with one *proviso*: he would work alone.

prov•o•ca•tion /ˌprɑːvə'keɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** : an action or occurrence that causes someone to become angry or to begin to do something [*count*] He can turn violent at the least/slightest/smallest *provocation*. ▪ Her calmness in the face of repeated *provocations* impressed her friends. [*noncount*] With hardly any *provocation*, the crowd began to chant.

pro•voc•a•tive /prə'vɑːkətɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : causing discussion, thought, argument, etc. ▪ a thoughtful and *provocative* book/essay/idea ▪ *provocative* comments ▪ It was one of his more *provocative* suggestions. ▪ an intentionally *provocative* style
2 : causing sexual feelings or excitement : SEXY ▪ She was wearing a very *provocative* outfit.
– **pro•voc•a•tive•ly** *adv* ▪ a *provocatively* thoughtful work ▪ She was dressed *provocatively*.

pro•voke /prə'voʊk/ *verb* **-vokes**; **-voked**; **-vok•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to cause the occurrence of (a feeling or action) : to make (something) happen ▪ His remarks *provoked* both tears and laughter. ▪ His insults were intended to *provoke* [=*start*] a fight. ▪ The results of the election have *provoked* [=*generated*] a lot of discussion. ▪ ideas that are likely to *provoke* [=*stimulate*] change
2 : to cause (a person or animal) to become angry, violent, etc. ▪ He just says those things because he's trying to *provoke* you. ▪ The animal will not attack unless it is *provoked*. — sometimes + *into* ▪ He was *provoked into* a violent reaction by their taunts.

pro•vost /'proʊˌvoʊst, *Brit* 'prɒvəst/ *noun, pl* **-vosts** [*count*]
1 *US* : an official of high rank at a university
2 *Brit* : the head of a college at a university
3 : the head of a Scottish town

prow /'praʊ/ *noun, pl* **prows** [*count*] : the front of a ship

prow•ess /'prawəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : great ability or skill ▪ He is known for his *prowess* on the football field. ▪ athletic/physical/technical *prowess* ▪ their naval and military *prowess*

[1]prowl /'prawəl/ *verb* **prowls**; **prowled**; **prowl•ing**
1 *of an animal* : to move quietly through an area while hunting [*no obj*] a tiger *prowling* in the jungle ▪ wolves *prowling* in packs [+ *obj*] He moved like a tiger *prowling* the jungle.
2 : to move through a place or area especially while searching for something often in a quiet or secret way [+ *obj*] The police were *prowling* the streets in their patrol cars. ▪ He liked to *prowl* the streets late at night. ▪ I *prowled* the store looking for sales. [*no obj*] I *prowled* through the store looking for sales.

[2]prowl *noun* [*singular*] : an act of moving through a place while searching for something : an act of prowling ▪ a *prowl* through the bookshop
on the prowl : searching for something often in a quiet or secret way ▪ My cat was *on the prowl*. [=my cat was prowling] ▪ reporters *on the prowl* for a good story

prowl•er /'prawlə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a person who moves through an area in a quiet way in order to commit a crime ▪ There were reports of a *prowler* in the neighborhood.
2 : an animal that moves through an area while hunting or searching for food ▪ Raccoons are night *prowlers*.

prox•i•mate /'prɑːksəmət/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : coming or happening immediately before or after something in a way that shows a very close and direct relationship ▪ the *proximate* cause of the fire ▪ the *proximate* result

prox•im•i•ty /prɑk'sɪməti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the state of being near ▪ People are attracted to the area by the *proximity* [=*nearness*] of several beaches. — often + *to* ▪ I like the *proximity* of the bus stop *to* my home. ▪ The bus stop is located ***in close proximity to*** [=*near to*] my home. ▪ family members who live *in close proximity* (*to* each other)

proxy /'prɑːksi/ *noun, pl* **prox•ies**
1 [*count*] : a person who is given the power or authority to do something (such as to vote) for someone else ▪ Since I wouldn't be available to vote, I nominated him to act as my *proxy*. — often + *for* ▪ He served as a *proxy for* his uncle.
2 [*noncount*] : power or authority that is given to allow a person to act for someone else — usually used in the phrase ***by proxy*** ▪ I voted *by proxy*. [=by giving another person the authority to vote for me]
– **proxy** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *proxy* vote

prude /'pruːd/ *noun, pl* **prudes** [*count*] *disapproving* : a person who is easily shocked or offended by things that do not shock or offend other people ▪ He is too much of a *prude* to enjoy movies containing sex and violence.
– **prud•ish** /'pruːdɪʃ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ She's very *prudish* about sex. – **prud•ish•ly** *adv* – **prud•ish•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

pru•dence /'pruːdəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] : careful good judgment that allows someone to avoid danger or risks ▪ act with ordinary/reasonable *prudence* ▪ He always exercises *prudence* with his finances.

pru•dent /'pruːdnt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : having or showing careful good judgment ▪ He always listened to her *prudent* advice. ▪ You made a *prudent* choice/decision. ▪ She's a *prudent* investor. — opposite IMPRUDENT
– **pru•dent•ly** *adv* ▪ The money was *prudently* invested.

pru•den•tial /pru'dɛnʃəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal + old-fashioned* : having or showing careful good judgment : PRUDENT ▪ a *prudential* approach to managing money
– **pru•den•tial•ly** *adv*

prud•ery /'pruːdəri/ *noun* [*noncount*] *disapproving* : the behavior or thinking of people who are too easily shocked or offended : prudish behavior or attitudes ▪ sexual *prudery*

[1]prune /'pruːn/ *noun, pl* **prunes** [*count*] : a dried plum that is often cooked before it is eaten ▪ stewed *prunes* ▪ *prune* juice

[2]prune *verb* **prunes**; **pruned**; **prun•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to cut off some of the branches of (a tree or bush) so that it will grow better or look better ▪ She carefully *pruned* the hedge. ▪ Those trees need to be *pruned* every year. — often + *back* ▪ You should *prune back* the unwanted branches.

2 : to reduce (something) by removing parts that are not necessary or wanted ▪ The students were asked to *prune* their essays. ▪ The budget needs to be *pruned*.

– **pruning** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The bushes need *pruning*.

prun•er *noun, pl* **-ers**

1 [*count*] : a person who prunes something ▪ She's a skillful *pruner*.

2 *pruners* [*plural*] *US* : PRUNING SHEARS

pruning shears *noun* [*plural*] *US* : a garden tool that is used for cutting off the branches of trees and bushes ▪ a pair of *pruning shears* — called also (*US*) *pruners*, (*Brit*) *secateurs*; see picture at GARDENING

pru•ri•ent /'prʊrijənt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal + usually disapproving* : having or showing too much interest in sex ▪ He took a *prurient* interest in her personal life. ▪ a book that appealed to the *prurient* curiosity of its readers

– **pru•ri•ence** /'prʊrijəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **pru•ri•ent•ly** *adv*

prus•sic acid /'prʌsɪk-/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a very poisonous acid

[1]pry /'praɪ/ *verb* **pries**; **pried**; **pry•ing** [*no obj*] : to try to find out about other people's private lives ▪ I was curious, but I didn't want to *pry*. — usually + *into* ▪ He claims that the government is improperly *prying into* his affairs. ▪ They were trying to *pry into* my past. — compare [2]PRY

[2]pry *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **pries**; **pried**; **prying** [+ *obj*] *US* : to raise, move, or open (something) with a tool ▪ *pry* off a tight lid ▪ *pry* up a floorboard ▪ They *pried* open the door with a crowbar. — often used figuratively ▪ I couldn't *pry* the secret out of her. [=I couldn't get her to reveal the secret] — compare [1]PRY

prying *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : trying to find out about other people's private lives ▪ She tried to escape the *prying* eyes of her neighbors. ▪ *prying* questions

PS *abbr* **1** postscript — used to introduce an added comment that comes after your name at the end of a letter **2** *US* public school

psalm /'sɑ:m/ *noun, pl* **psalms** [*count*] : a song or poem used in worship and especially one from the Bible

psalm•ist /'sɑ:mɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a writer of psalms

psal•ter /'sɑ:ltɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a book that contains a collection of psalms for worship

pseud /'su:d/ *noun, pl* **pseuds** [*count*] *Brit, informal + disapproving* : a person who pretends to have a lot of knowledge : PSEUDO-INTELLECTUAL ▪ a pompous *pseud*

pseud- *or* **pseudo-** *combining form* : not real : fake ▪ *pseudo*nym ▪ *pseudo*-intellectual

pseu•do /'su:doʊ/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US* : not real or genuine : FAKE ▪ a *pseudo* event

pseu•do–in•tel•lec•tu•al /ˌsu:doʊˌɪntə'lɛktʃəwəl/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] *disapproving* : a person who wants to be thought of as having a lot of intelligence and knowledge but who is not really intelligent or knowledgeable ▪ She thinks her classmates are just a bunch of *pseudo-intellectuals*.

– **psuedo–intellectual** *adj*

pseu•do•nym /'su:dəˌnɪm/ *noun, pl* **-nyms** [*count*] : a name that someone (such as a writer) uses instead of his or her real name ▪ Mark Twain is the *pseudonym* of the American writer Samuel L. Clemens. ▪ She preferred to write ***under a pseudonym***. [=using a false name instead of her real name] — compare [2]ALIAS

– **pseu•don•y•mous** /su'dɑ:nəməs/ *adj* ▪ a *pseudonymous* author

psi *abbr* pounds per square inch

pso•ri•a•sis /sə'rajəsəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a skin disease that causes areas of your skin to become red and rough and to fall off

psst /'pst/ *interj* — used to get someone's attention ▪ *Psst*! I'm over here.

[1]psych /'saɪk/ *verb* **psychs**; **psyched**; **psych•ing** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to make (yourself or another person) mentally ready to perform or compete ▪ He was trying to *psych* himself before the race. — usually + *up* ▪ He was trying to *psych* himself *up* before the race. — see also PSYCHED

psych out [*phrasal verb*] ***psych (someone) out*** *or* ***psych out (someone)*** *informal* : to make (someone) feel nervous or unable to perform well : to say or do something to make (someone) feel uncomfortable or less confident ▪ She has a way of *psyching out* the competition. ▪ He was trying to *psych* me *out* by reminding me of the last time he beat me.

[2]psych *abbr* psychology

psy•che /'saɪki/ *noun, pl* **psy•ches** [*count*] *formal* : the soul, mind, or personality of a person or group ▪ some hidden corner within your *psyche* ▪ the female/male/human *psyche* ▪ the nation's *psyche*

psyched /'saɪkt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *informal* : very eager, ready, or excited about something ▪ Are you *psyched* for this party? ▪ I'm so *psyched* about my vacation!

psy•che•de•lia /ˌsaɪkə'di:ljə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the art, music, style of living, etc., that is associated with psychedelic drugs and especially with the time in the 1960s when many people were using psychedelic drugs ▪ the tie-dyed fashions of *psychedelia* ▪ music ranging from jazz to disco to '60s *psychedelia*

[1]psy•che•del•ic /ˌsaɪkə'dɛlɪk/ *adj*

1 a — used to describe a drug (such as LSD) that affects your thinking and causes you to see things that are not real ▪ *psychedelic* drugs **b** : caused by the use of psychedelic drugs ▪ a *psychedelic* experience ▪ *psychedelic* visions

2 : suggesting the effects of psychedelic drugs by having bright colors, strange sounds, etc. ▪ hippies wearing *psychedelic* clothing ▪ *psychedelic* color schemes ▪ *psychedelic* dance music ▪ strange *psychedelic* images

– **psy•che•del•i•cal•ly** /ˌsaɪkə'dɛlɪkli/ *adv*

[2]psychedelic *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] : a psychedelic drug (such as LSD)

psy•chi•a•trist /saɪ'kajətrɪst/ *noun, pl* **-trists** [*count*] : a doctor who treats mental or emotional disorders : a doctor of psychiatry

psy•chi•a•try /saɪ'kajətri/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a branch of medicine that deals with mental or emotional disorders

– **psy•chi•at•ric** /ˌsaɪki'ætrɪk/ *adj* ▪ a *psychiatric* clinic/hospital ▪ *psychiatric* ailments

[1]psy•chic /'saɪkɪk/ *adj*

1 a *also* ***psy•chi•cal*** /'saɪkɪkəl/ — used to describe strange mental powers and abilities (such as the ability to predict the future, to know what other people are thinking, or to receive messages from dead people) that cannot be explained by natural laws ▪ people with *psychic* abilities/powers ▪ reports of *psychic* phenomena **b** *of a person* : having strange and unnatural mental abilites : having psychic powers ▪ She claims to be *psychic*. ▪ (*humorous*) "How did you know that would happen?" "I'm *psychic*."

2 *also* ***psychical*** : of or relating to the mind ▪ suffered *psychic* disturbances ▪ *psychic* disorders

– **psy•chi•cal•ly** /'saɪkɪkli/ *adv*

[2]psychic *noun, pl* **-chics** [*count*] : a person who has strange mental powers and abilities (such as the ability to predict the future, to know what other people are thinking, or to receive messages from dead people) : a person who has psychic powers ▪ She claims to be a *psychic*.

psy•cho /'saɪkoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-chos** [*count*] *informal* : a person who is mentally ill and often dangerous or violent : PSYCHOPATH ▪ He plays a drug-dealing *psycho* in the movie.

– **psycho** *adj* ▪ *psycho* creeps/killers ▪ She can turn *psycho* at any minute.

psy•cho•anal•y•sis /ˌsaɪkowə'næləsəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a method of explaining and treating mental and emotional problems by having the patient talk about dreams, feelings, memories, etc. ▪ The doctor recommended *psychoanalysis*.

– **psy•cho•an•a•lyt•ic** /ˌsaɪkoʊˌænə'lɪtɪk/ *also* **psy•cho•an•a•lyt•i•cal** /ˌsaɪkoʊˌænə'lɪtɪkəl/ *adj* ▪ *psychoanalytic* explanations of behavior ▪ She studied *psychoanalytic* theory. – **psy•cho•an•a•lyt•i•cal•ly** /ˌsaɪkoʊˌænə'lɪtɪkli/ *adv*

psy•cho•an•a•lyst /ˌsaɪkoʊ'ænəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-lysts** [*count*] : a doctor who helps people with mental and emotional problems by talking to them about their dreams, memories, etc. : a doctor who practices psychoanalysis

psy•cho•an•a•lyze *also Brit* **psy•cho•an•a•lyse** /ˌsaɪkoʊ'ænəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-lyz•es**; **-lyzed**; **-lyz•ing** [+ *obj*] : to treat the mental and emotional problems of (a patient) by having the patient talk about dreams, feelings, memories, etc. : to treat (someone) by means of psychoanalysis

psy•cho•bab•ble /'saɪkoʊˌbæbəl/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal + disapproving* : language that is used by people who talk about mental and emotional problems and that is seen as silly or meaningless : psychological jargon ▪ a popular book filled with the usual *psychobabble*

psy•cho•log•i•cal /ˌsaɪkəˈlɑːʤɪkəl/ *also US* **psy•cho•log•ic** /ˌsaɪkəˈlɑːʤɪk/ *adj*
1 : of or relating to the mind : MENTAL • *psychological* anguish • *psychological* disorders • a *psychological* rather than a physical condition • emotional and *psychological* states
2 : of or relating to the study of the mind : of or relating to psychology • *psychological* analysis/research/tests • a *psychological* clinic
psychological warfare : things that are done to make someone (such as an enemy or opponent) become less confident or to feel hopeless, afraid, etc. • The army used radio broadcasts into enemy territory as a form of *psychological warfare*.
– **psy•cho•log•i•cal•ly** /ˌsaɪkəˈlɑːʤɪkli/ *adv* • a *psychologically* healthy person • The abuse left him *psychologically* scarred.

psy•chol•o•gist /saɪˈkɑːləʤɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*] : a scientist who specializes in the study and treatment of the mind and behavior : a specialist in psychology

psy•chol•o•gy /saɪˈkɑːləʤi/ *noun, pl* **-gies**
1 [*noncount*] : the science or study of the mind and behavior • She studied *psychology* in college.
2 : the way a person or group thinks [*noncount*] the *psychology* of an athlete • mob *psychology* • the *psychology* of crowd behavior [*count*] We need to understand the *psychologies* of the two people involved in the incident.
– see also REVERSE PSYCHOLOGY

psy•cho•path /ˈsaɪkəˌpæθ/ *noun, pl* **-paths** [*count*] : a person who is mentally ill, who does not care about other people, and who is usually dangerous or violent • a murderous *psychopath*
– **psy•cho•path•ic** /ˌsaɪkəˈpæθɪk/ *adj* • violent and *psychopathic* behavior • a *psychopathic* murderer

psy•cho•sis /saɪˈkoʊsəs/ *noun, pl* **-cho•ses** /-ˈkoʊˌsiːz/ [*count, noncount*] : a very serious mental illness that makes you behave strangely or believe things that are not true • The patient suffers from some kind of *psychosis*.

psy•cho•so•ma•tic /ˌsaɪkoʊsəˈmætɪk/ *adj* : caused by mental or emotional problems rather than by physical illness • The doctor told her that her stomach problems were *psychosomatic*. • *psychosomatic* disorders/illness/symptoms
– **psy•cho•so•mat•i•cal•ly** /ˌsaɪkoʊsəˈmætɪkli/ *adv*

psy•cho•ther•a•py /ˌsaɪkoʊˈθerəpi/ *noun, pl* **-pies** [*count, noncount*] : treatment of mental or emotional illness by talking about problems rather than by using medicine or drugs • the benefits of *psychotherapy*
– **psy•cho•ther•a•pist** /ˌsaɪkoʊˈθerəpɪst/ *noun, pl* **-pists** [*count*] • a trained *psychotherapist*

[1]psy•chot•ic /saɪˈkɑːtɪk/ *adj* : having or relating to a very serious mental illness that makes you act strangely or believe things that are not true : relating to or suffering from psychosis • *psychotic* behavior/symptoms • *psychotic* patients • He was diagnosed as *psychotic*.
– **psy•chot•i•cal•ly** /saɪˈkɑːtɪkli/ *adv*

[2]psychotic *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] : a person who suffers from a very serious mental illness : a psychotic person • His father is a *psychotic*.

psy•cho•tro•pic /ˌsaɪkəˈtroʊpɪk/ *adj, technical* : having an effect on how the mind works • *psychotropic* drugs

pt *or* **Pt** *abbr* **1** part • Add 1 *pt* gin. • Shakespeare's Henry IV, *Pt* 1 **2** pint • 2 qts, 1 *pt* **3** ***pt.*** *or* ***Pt.*** point • Score 1 *pt.* per question for a maximum score of 20 *pts.* • Our address is 47 Sunfish *Pt.* **4** ***Pt.*** port • *Pt.* Royale

PT *abbr* **1** part-time • typist position, *PT* **2** *US* physical therapist; physical therapy • My *PT* told me not to overdo it. • a course of *PT* after the injury **3** *Brit* physical training

PTA *abbr* Parent-Teacher Association • He joined the *PTA*. • a *PTA* meeting

Pte *abbr, Brit* private • *Pte* Daniel Kyle

ptero•dac•tyl /ˌterəˈdæktl̩/ *noun, pl* **-tyls** [*count*] : a large flying animal that lived long ago when dinosaurs were alive

PTO *abbr* **1** *US* Parent-Teacher Organization • The *PTO* is raising money for a new playground. • a *PTO* meeting **2** *chiefly Brit* please turn over ✧ *PTO* is written on the bottom of a page to tell the reader to continue reading on the back of that page.

PTSD *abbr* post-traumatic stress disorder

Pty *abbr, Brit* proprietary ✧ *Pty* is used after the names of companies in Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. • Laura Russ Yachts, *Pty* Ltd

pub /ˈpʌb/ *noun, pl* **pubs** [*count*] : a building or room especially in Britain or Ireland where alcoholic drinks and often food are served • We ate at a lot of good *pubs* on our trip to England last summer. • an Irish *pub*

pub. *abbr* published; publisher; publishing • a rare first ed., *pub.* 1841 • the Kavanagh *Pub.* Co.

pub crawl *noun, pl* ~ **crawls** [*count*] *informal* : a visit to several or many pubs or bars in one night • She invited me to join them on a *pub crawl*.

pu•ber•ty /ˈpjuːbəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the period of life when a person's sexual organs mature and he or she becomes able to have children • He reached/entered *puberty* later than most of his classmates.

pu•bes•cent /pjuˈbɛsn̩t/ *adj* : beginning to physically develop into an adult : having reached puberty • *pubescent* boys/girls

pu•bic /ˈpjuːbɪk/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of, relating to, or near the sexual organs • *pubic* hair • the *pubic* bone

[1]pub•lic /ˈpʌblɪk/ *adj*
1 *always used before a noun* : of, relating to, or affecting all or most of the people of a country, state, etc. • *public* opinion • *Public* outrage over the scandal eventually forced him to resign. • The ads are intended to increase *public* awareness of the risks of smoking. • a study of ***public policy*** [=government policies that affect the whole population] • He is the director of ***public affairs***. [=his work involves events, activities, etc., that a company does for the public]
2 *always used before a noun* **a** : of, relating to, paid for by, or working for a government • She was elected to a *public* office. • *public* spending/funding • *public* education/housing • a *public* corporation • a *public* prosecutor/officer • He was in Congress for many years but he recently retired from *public* life. **b** : supported by money from the government and from private contributors rather than by commercials • *public* television/radio
3 a : able to be used by anyone : open or available to people in general rather than to just a few people • a *public* library/restroom/telephone/beach • *public* property • They decided on a nearby restaurant as a convenient *public* place to meet. • The government has allowed *public* access to the documents. • The city council is holding a *public* meeting. **b** : able to be seen or heard by many people • This will be her first *public* performance in five years. • a *public* apology • Her trial will be *public*.
4 : known to many people • As a celebrity, she is trying to keep her private life separate from her *public* life. • The scandal ruined his ***public image***. [=the scandal caused many people to change their opinion of him from good to bad] • a ***public figure*** [=a well-known person] • The results of the study have been ***made public***. [=have been announced, published, etc., so that they are generally known]
5 : offering shares or stock that can be traded on the open market • a *public* corporation/company — opposite PRIVATE; see also INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING
go public **1** : to make something known to many people : to make something generally known by announcing it, publishing it, etc. • He *went public* with his research. **2** : to offer shares or stock that can be freely traded on the open market • The company plans to *go public*.
in the public eye see [1]EYE
public knowledge see KNOWLEDGE

[2]public *noun* [*singular*]
1 ***the public*** : the people of a country, state, etc. • *the* American *public* • The beach is open to *the public*. • (*US*) *The public* is angry with the President = (*Brit*) *The public* are angry with the President. • ***The general public*** is in favor of the law. • ***Members of the public*** called for the mayor's resignation.
2 : a group of people who have a shared interest, quality, etc. • He has once again won the approval of his *public* [=his supporters/fans] with his latest movie. • the reading *public* [=people who read a lot; people who enjoy reading]
in public : in a place where you can be seen by many people : in a public place • They were seen kissing *in public*. • The former actress is now rarely seen *in public*.

public access *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : a television channel on which any person can broadcast a program • The city council meeting will be broadcast on *public access*. — often used before another noun • *public access* television • a *public access* channel

public address system *noun, pl* ~ **-tems** [*count*] : [2]PA 1

pub•li•can /ˈpʌblɪkən/ *noun, pl* **-cans** [*count*] *Brit, formal* : someone who owns or manages a pub

public assistance *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : money that the government gives to people who are poor, old, or disabled ▪ Our family had to ***go on public assistance*** [=receive money from the government] when my parents lost their jobs.

pub·li·ca·tion /ˌpʌbləˈkeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*noncount*] : the act or process of producing a book, magazine, etc., and making it available to the public ▪ The company specializes in the *publication* of dictionaries. ▪ the book's date of *publication* = the book's *publication* date [=the date when the book was published] ▪ My novel has been accepted ***for publication***. [=my book will be published and sold to the public]

2 [*count*] : a book, magazine, etc., that has been printed and made available to the public ▪ She has a very impressive list of *publications*. ▪ a scholarly/scientific *publication*

3 [*noncount*] : the act of printing something (such as an article or photograph) in a magazine, newspaper, etc. — often + *of* ▪ the *publication of* a photo ▪ The *publication of* their findings created an immediate controversy.

public convenience *noun, pl* ~ **-niences** [*count*] *Brit, formal* : a room in a public place with a sink and toilet : RESTROOM

public defender *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *US* : a lawyer who is paid by the government to defend people who are accused of a crime and are unable to pay for a private lawyer

public domain *noun*

the public domain **1** : the state of something that is not owned by a particular person or company and is available for anyone to use ▪ The software has entered *the public domain*. ▪ The software is ***in the public domain***. **2** *US* : land that is owned by the government ▪ The forests are part of *the public domain*.

– **public domain** *adj* ▪ *public domain* software ▪ The software became *public domain*. ▪ The forests are *public domain*.

public health *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the health of people in general ▪ a disease that poses a serious threat to *public health*

2 *US* : the science of caring for the people of a community by giving them basic health care and health information, improving living conditions, etc. ▪ She got her degree in *public health*. ▪ *Public health* officials warned of an influenza outbreak.

public house *noun, pl* ~ **houses** [*count*] *Brit, formal* : PUB

pub·li·cist /ˈpʌbləsɪst/ *noun, pl* **-cists** [*count*] : a person whose job is to give information about an important or famous person or organization to news reporters ▪ The actor's *publicist* [=*press agent*] declined to comment.

pub·lic·i·ty /pəˈblɪsəti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : something that attracts the attention of the public ▪ His public appearances are good *publicity* for the new movie. ▪ An arrest for drunk driving is bad *publicity* for any celebrity.

2 : attention that is given to someone or something by newspapers, magazines, television news programs, etc. ▪ The film has gotten some good/bad *publicity*. ▪ She has received a lot of *publicity* for her latest novel.

3 : the activity or business of getting people to give attention to someone or something ▪ The studio spent a lot of money on *publicity* for the movie. ▪ Her antics on the show were just a ***publicity stunt***. [=something done just to get publicity]

pub·li·cize *also Brit* **pub·li·cise** /ˈpʌbləˌsaɪz/ *verb* **-cizes; -cized; -ciz·ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to be publicly known : to give information about (something) to the public ▪ The company neglected to *publicize* the side effects of the new drug. ▪ He is busy *publicizing* [=*promoting*] his book. ▪ a highly *publicized* murder trial

public land *noun, pl* ~ **lands** *US* : land that is owned and taken care of by the government [*count*] the management of *public lands* [*noncount*] The government will auction off 20 parcels of *public land*.

pub·lic·ly /ˈpʌblɪkli/ *adv*

1 a [*more* ~; *most* ~] : in a way that is meant be heard or seen by many people ▪ He *publicly* announced his resignation. = He announced his resignation *publicly*. ▪ She very *publicly* acknowledged/admitted her mistake. **b** : in a way that can be used, seen, bought, etc., by anyone ▪ The information is *publicly* available/accessible. ▪ a *publicly* traded stock [=a stock that the general public can buy or sell] ▪ a *publicly* owned company [=a company that is owned by the people who own its stock; a company that anyone can buy a share of]

2 : by a government ▪ *publicly* funded research ▪ *publicly* owned land

3 : by all or most of the people of a country, state, etc. ▪ The policies have been *publicly* approved.

public relations *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : the activity or job of providing information about a particular person or organization to the public so that people will regard that person or organization in a favorable way ▪ He is very experienced in *public relations*. ▪ a *public relations* firm — called also *PR*

2 [*plural*] : the relationship between an organization and the public ▪ Sponsoring community events is always good for *public relations*. — called also *PR*

public school *noun, pl* ~ **schools** [*count, noncount*]

1 *US* : a school that gets money from and is controlled by a local government ▪ Both of their sons attend *public school*.

2 *Brit* : a private school that prepares students for college or for public service

public sector *noun* [*singular*] : the part of an economy which is controlled or owned by the government ▪ She has a job in the *public sector*. — compare PRIVATE SECTOR

public servant *noun, pl* ~ **-vants** [*count*] : a government official or employee

public service *noun, pl* ~ **-vices**

1 [*count, noncount*] : the business of supplying something (such as electricity, gas, or transportation) to the members of a community ▪ The cost of *public services* is on the rise.

2 : something that is done to help people rather than to make a profit [*count*] The station is running antismoking commercials as a *public service*. [*noncount*] The company is heavily involved in *public service*. ▪ The TV station showed a ***public service announcement*** [=an announcement made for the good of the public] on drunk driving.

3 [*noncount*] : work that someone does as part of a government : the work done by public servants ▪ He works in *public service*. ▪ She has devoted her life to *public service*.

public speaking *noun* [*noncount*] : the act or skill of speaking to a usually large group of people ▪ He has a fear of *public speaking*. ▪ She has a gift for *public speaking*. ▪ a book on *public speaking*

– **public speaker** *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] ▪ She's a gifted *public speaker*.

public–spirited *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *somewhat formal* : having or showing a desire to help other people ▪ a *public-spirited* person/act

public transit *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : MASS TRANSIT

public utility *noun, pl* ~ **-ties** [*count*] : a company (such as an electric company) that provides a public service and must follow special rules made by the government

public works *noun* [*plural*] : buildings and structures (such as schools, highways, and docks) that are built and owned by a government

pub·lish /ˈpʌblɪʃ/ *verb* **-lish·es; -lished; -lish·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to prepare and produce (a book, magazine, etc.) for sale ▪ It's a small company that only *publishes* about four books a year. ▪ The university press *publishes* academic titles. ▪ The newspaper is *published* daily.

2 : to have something you wrote included in a book, magazine, newspaper, etc. [*no obj*] There is a lot of pressure for professors to *publish* regularly. [+ *obj*] He has not *published* anything for a long time.

3 [+ *obj*] : to include (an article, letter, photograph, etc.) in a magazine or newspaper ▪ The magazine *published* two of my stories.

4 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to make (something) known to many people : to make a public announcement of (something) ▪ The committee plans on *publishing* their findings.

– **pub·lish·able** /ˈpʌblɪʃəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ My professor said that my essay is *publishable*. ▪ a *publishable* quote

pub·lish·er /ˈpʌblɪʃɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person or company that produces books, magazines, etc. ▪ He submitted the manuscript to *publishers* of children's books.

pub·lish·ing /ˈpʌblɪʃɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the business of producing books, magazines, etc., to sell to the public ▪ He was hoping to get a job in *publishing* after college. ▪ Her sister works for a well-known *publishing* company/house.

puck /ˈpʌk/ *noun, pl* **pucks** [*count*] : the small, hard, rubber object that is used in ice hockey ▪ a hockey *puck*

puck·er /ˈpʌkɚ/ *verb* **-ers; -ered; -er·ing** : to pull the sides of (something, such as skin or cloth) together so that folds or wrinkles are formed [+ *obj*] He ***puckered his lips*** [=he

squeezed his lips together in the way people do when they are going to kiss someone] and kissed her on the cheek. [*no obj*] His skin *puckered* a little around the scar. ▪ She ***puckered up*** [=puckered her lips] and gave him a big smooch.
– **puckered** *adj* ▪ a *puckered* seam ▪ his *puckered* [=*wrinkled*] face/skin

puck•ish /ˈpʌkɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *literary* : having or showing a desire to cause trouble in a playful or harmless way : MISCHIEVOUS ▪ He had a *puckish* smile/look on his face.

pud /ˈpʊd/ *noun, pl* **puds** [*count, noncount*] *Brit, informal* : PUDDING ▪ What's for *pud*? ▪ a steak and kidney *pud*

pud•ding /ˈpʊdɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-dings** [*count, noncount*]
1 *US* : a thick, sweet, soft, and creamy food that is usually eaten cold at the end of a meal ▪ chocolate/vanilla/butterscotch *pudding*
2 : a sweet, soft food that is made of rice, bread, etc. ▪ rice/bread *pudding* ▪ tapioca *pudding*
3 *Brit* : DESSERT ▪ What's for *pudding*?
4 *Brit* : a hot dish like a pie that has a mixture of meat or vegetables inside of it ▪ steak and kidney *pudding*
the proof is in the pudding *also* ***the proof of the pudding is in the eating*** — used to say that you can only know if something is good or bad by trying it
– see also BLACK PUDDING, CHRISTMAS PUDDING, PEASE PUDDING, PLUM PUDDING

pud•dle /ˈpʌdl̩/ *noun, pl* **pud•dles** [*count*] : a small amount of water, mud, etc., on the ground ▪ She accidentally stepped in a *puddle* and got her shoes wet. ▪ After the storm, the road was covered in deep *puddles*.

pu•den•dum /pjʊˈdɛndəm/ *noun, pl* **-den•da** /-ˈdɛndə/ [*count*] *technical* : the sexual organs on the outside of a person's body — used especially to refer to a woman's sexual organs; usually plural ▪ the female *pudenda*

pudgy /ˈpʌʤi/ *adj* **pudg•i•er; -est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : somewhat fat ▪ The baby wrapped its *pudgy* [=*plump*, (*Brit*) *podgy*] little hand around my finger. ▪ a *pudgy* little man

pueb•lo /ˈpwɛbloʊ/ *noun, pl* **-los**
1 [*count*] : a group of Native American homes that have flat roofs and that were used in the past in the southwestern U.S.
2 ***Pueblo*** [*count, noncount*] : a member of any of several groups of Native Americans from the southwestern U.S.

pu•er•ile /ˈpjərəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal + disapproving* : silly or childish especially in a way that shows a lack of seriousness or good judgment ▪ a *puerile* comedy ▪ *puerile* behavior

[1]puff /ˈpʌf/ *verb* **puffs; puffed; puff•ing**
1 : to breathe smoke from a cigarette, pipe, etc., in and out of the lungs [*no obj*] She sat on the porch *puffing* on a cigarette. ▪ The men spent the evening *puffing* (away) at cigars. [+ *obj*] He *puffed* [=*smoked*] a pipe.
2 a : to produce or send out small clouds of smoke or steam [+ *obj*] He *puffed* [=*blew*] smoke into my face. ▪ The chimney *puffed* white smoke into the sky. [*no obj*] Steam *puffed* (out) from the pot. **b** *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to move in a particular direction while producing clouds of steam or smoke ▪ We watched the train *puff* away on its journey west.
3 [*no obj*] *informal* **a** : to breathe loudly especially because of hard physical activity ▪ He was *puffing* and panting from running. **b** *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to move or do something while breathing loudly ▪ The bikers *puffed* up the hill.
4 a [*no obj*] : to become larger and rounder than normal — usually + *up* ▪ Her face *puffed up* [=*swelled*] from an allergic reaction to the almonds. ▪ The cake *puffed up* as it baked in the oven. **b** [+ *obj*] : to make (something) larger and rounder than normal ▪ He *puffed* his chest and swaggered into the room. — usually + *up* ▪ The frog *puffed* itself *up*. ▪ He *puffed up* his chest and swaggered into the room.
huff and puff see [1]HUFF
puff out [*phrasal verb*] ***puff (something) out*** *or* ***puff out (something)*** : to make (something) larger and rounder by filling it with air ▪ She *puffed out* her cheeks, made a wish, and blew out the candles on her cake. ▪ A gust of wind *puffed out* the boat's sails.
puff (up) with pride ✧ When you *puff (up) with pride* or when you are *puffed (up) with pride*, you are very proud and stand or sit up straighter because of it. ▪ When his daughter's name was announced as the winner, he *puffed up with pride*.
– **puffed** *adj* ▪ The baby wore an adorable little dress with *puffed* sleeves. [=sleeves made so that they puff out]

[2]puff *noun, pl* **puffs**
1 [*count*] : an act of breathing something (such as smoke or medicine) into your lungs ▪ He let me have a *puff* off his pipe. ▪ She took two *puffs* on her inhaler before going for a run.
2 [*count*] : a movement of gas, smoke, or air that can be seen or felt ▪ She blew out the candles in a single *puff*. [=an outward breath of air] — usually + *of* ▪ The magician disappeared in a *puff of* smoke. ▪ We saw *puffs of* smoke billowing from the chimney. ▪ A sudden *puff of* cold air hit the back of my neck.
3 [*count*] : a light, round pastry that contains a sweet filling ▪ *puffs* filled with cream cheese and apricot jam — see also CREAM PUFF
4 *Brit, informal + disapproving* : speech or writing that praises someone or something too much [*noncount*] The story was just a lot of public relations *puff*. [*count*] The story was just a PR *puff*. [=(*chiefly US*) *puff piece*]
5 [*noncount*] *Brit, informal* : BREATH 1 ▪ Halfway up the hill, I was already ***out of puff***.
– see also POWDER PUFF

puff•er /ˈpʌfɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a type of poisonous fish that can inflate its body with air so that it forms a ball — called also *puffer fish*

puf•fin /ˈpʌfən/ *noun, pl* **-fins** [*count*] : a black-and-white seabird that lives in the north Atlantic and has a large, colorful bill

puff pastry *noun* [*noncount*] : dough that is made of thin layers that puff up during baking

puff piece *noun, pl* ~ **pieces** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal + disapproving* : a story, news report, etc., that praises someone or something too much ▪ The story was just another *puff piece* to help the mayor get reelected.

puffy /ˈpʌfi/ *adj* **puff•i•er; -est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : larger than normal : SWOLLEN ▪ When I first wake up in the morning, my eyes are *puffy*.
2 : soft and light ▪ *puffy* clouds ▪ *puffy*, white hair
– **puff•i•ness** /ˈpʌfinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

pug /ˈpʌg/ *noun, pl* **pugs** [*count*] : a small dog that has short fur, a tightly curled tail, and a wide wrinkled face — see picture at DOG

pu•gi•list /ˈpju:ʤəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-lists** [*count*] *old-fashioned + somewhat formal* : a professional boxer ▪ a talented *pugilist*
– **pu•gi•lism** /ˈpju:ʤəˌlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He made a career out of *pugilism*. – **pu•gi•lis•tic** /ˌpju:ʤəˈlɪstɪk/ *adj* ▪ a *pugilistic* career

pug•na•cious /ˌpʌgˈneɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : showing a readiness or desire to fight or argue ▪ There's one *pugnacious* member on the committee who won't agree to anything.
– **pug•na•cious•ly** *adv* – **pug•nac•i•ty** /ˌpʌgˈnæsəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a player who's known for his *pugnacity*

[1]puke /ˈpju:k/ *verb* **pukes; puked; puk•ing** *informal* : to empty what is in your stomach through your mouth : VOMIT [*no obj*] I think I'm going to *puke*. [=*throw up*] ▪ Her snobby attitude ***makes me (want to) puke***. [=makes me sick; makes me very angry, annoyed, etc.] [+ *obj*] — usually + *up* ▪ He *puked up* [=*threw up*] his breakfast.

[2]puke *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : the food, liquid, etc., that comes out of your body through your mouth when you vomit : VOMIT ▪ a puddle of dog *puke*

puk•ka /ˈpʌkə/ *adj, Brit, informal* : very good ▪ They assured us that everything's *pukka*. [=*OK*] ▪ a *pukka* meal

Pu•lit•zer Prize /ˈpʊlətsɚ-/ *noun, pl* ~ **Prizes** [*count*] : one of a number of prizes that are awarded in the U.S. each year for excellent work in writing, reporting, or music composition — called also *Pulitzer*

[1]pull /ˈpʊl/ *verb* **pulls; pulled; pull•ing**
1 : to hold onto and move (someone or something) in a particular direction and especially toward yourself [+ *obj*] He *pulled* the door open and ran out. ▪ The cat will scratch you if you keep *pulling* its tail. ▪ Make a knot in the rope and *pull* it tight. ▪ *Pull* the baby's chair closer to the table. ▪ She *pulled* the blanket over her head. [*no obj*] We tried pushing and *pulling* but couldn't get the couch to move. ▪ Grab the end of the rope and *pull* as hard as you can.
2 [+ *obj*] : to remove (something) by gripping it and using force ▪ We spent the morning in the garden *pulling* weeds. ▪ I accidentally *pulled* one of the buttons off my shirt. ▪ The dentist said I have to have two teeth *pulled*. [=*extracted*] ▪ He

pulled the cork (out) and poured the wine. • He *pulled* the plug out of the socket.

3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to cause (something you are holding or something that is attached to you) to move with you as you go in a particular direction • Horses *pull* carriages around the park. • She was *pulling* a wagon behind her. **b** : to cause (something) to move or be directed toward something • The colors *pull* [=*draw*] the eye toward the center of the painting.

4 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* **a** [*no obj*] *of a car, train, etc.* : to move from or to a particular place • The car *pulled* out of the driveway. • The train *pulled* into the station [=arrived at the station] right on time. • I made it to the bus stop just when the bus was *pulling* away/out. [=was leaving] **b** : to move a vehicle from or to a particular place [*no obj*] Look both ways before *pulling* out (into traffic). • It's a tight squeeze, so be careful *pulling* in. • He *pulled* into the parking space. • We'll have to *pull* off the highway. • She *pulled* away from the curb and into traffic. [+ *obj*] He slowly *pulled* the car into traffic. • *Pull* the car into the garage.

5 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] *of a car, wheel, etc.* : to move to the left or right instead of straight ahead when traveling forward • I need to get the alignment of the car fixed because when I drive it *pulls* [=*drifts*] to the right/left. • The wheel *pulls* left.

6 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to move (your body or a part of your body) in a particular direction or to a particular position [+ *obj*] She wore her hair *pulled* back in a ponytail. • At my age, it can be hard to *pull* yourself up from the couch. • I tried to grab his hand but he *pulled* it away. [*no obj*] When I leaned over to kiss her, she *pulled* away.

7 [+ *obj*] : to move (a trigger, lever, etc.) in order to operate a device or machine • He *pulled* the trigger, but the gun didn't fire. • She dropped in a quarter and *pulled* the slot machine's lever.

8 : to move a boat through water using oars : ROW [*no obj*] The crew *pulled* toward shore. [+ *obj*] The crew *pulled* the boat toward shore.

9 [+ *obj*] **a** : to remove (someone or something) from a place or situation • The pitcher was *pulled* (from the game) [=was taken out of the game] in the third inning. **b** : to take (something) away • The police *pulled* his driver's license for drunk driving. = He had his license *pulled* for drunk driving. • The project was well-funded until a few companies *pulled* [=*withdrew*] their sponsorship.

10 [+ *obj*] : to take (a weapon) out of a pocket or other hidden place • He went into the store and *pulled* a gun on the cashier. [=took out a gun and pointed it at the cashier] • Somone *pulled* a knife on him and threatened to stab him.

11 [+ *obj*] : to do (something) • They *pulled* [=*carried out*] a robbery. • I *pulled* [=*worked*] two double shifts at the restaurant this week. • She loved to *pull* [=*play*] tricks/jokes on her brother. • Don't you ever *pull* a crazy stunt like that again! • To finish my paper for class, I had to ***pull an all-nighter***. [=stay awake all night working]

12 [+ *obj*] : to hurt (a muscle, tendon, or ligament) by stretching it too much • She *pulled* [=*strained*] a muscle in her back when she tried to reach the top shelf.

13 [+ *obj*] *sports* : to hit (a ball) toward the left from a right-handed swing or toward the right from a left-handed swing • (*baseball*) He *pulled* the ball down the left-field line. • (*golf*) She *pulled* her drive into the rough. — compare PUSH

14 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to behave like (a particular person) • Whenever anyone forgot where they had parked the car, we'd say they "*pulled* a Dave." [=they did something that Dave often does]

15 *Brit, informal* : to attract (someone) sexually [+ *obj*] He had a brief affair with a girl he *pulled* in a bar. [*no obj*] She's wearing a short skirt hoping it will help her *pull* tonight.

In addition to the phrases shown below, *pull* occurs in many idioms that are shown at appropriate entries throughout the dictionary. For example, *pull a face* can be found at [1]FACE, *pull someone's leg* can be found at [1]LEG, and *pull the wool over someone's eyes* can be found at WOOL.

pull a fast one *informal* : to deceive or trick someone • Be careful. Someone might try to *pull a fast one* on you.

pull ahead [*phrasal verb*] : to take the lead in a race, competition, contest, etc. • The two runners were side by side until one *pulled ahead*. • She *pulled ahead* in the race. • He has *pulled ahead* of the other candidates in the election polls.

pull apart [*phrasal verb*] **1 a** : to be separated into parts or pieces by pulling • The rolls *pull apart* easily. **b** ***pull (something) apart or pull apart (something)*** : to separate or break (something) into parts or pieces • She *pulled* the rolls *apart* with her hands. — sometimes used figuratively • His gambling problem is *pulling* the family *apart*. [=is destroying the family] **2** ***pull (people or animals) apart or pull apart (people or animals)*** : to separate (people or animals) in order to stop a fight • Customers stepped in and *pulled* the two men *apart*. [=separated the two men who were fighting]

pull aside [*phrasal verb*] ***pull (someone) aside*** : to take (someone) to one side away from other people for a private conversation • The reporter *pulled* me *aside* and asked if I knew who was in charge.

pull at [*phrasal verb*] ***pull at (something)*** **1** : to hold onto and pull (something) repeatedly • When she gets nervous, she *pulls at* [=*pulls on*] her ear. **2** : to breathe in the smoke from (a cigarette, pipe, etc.) • He rocked back and forth, *pulling at* [=*pulling on*] his pipe.

pull away [*phrasal verb*] : to begin to move farther ahead in a race, competition, contest, etc. • They *pulled away* in the second half and won the game easily. — often + *from* • In the final lap, he *pulled away from* the other cars and won.

pull back [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to decide not to do something that you had intended to do or started to do • The buyers of the house *pulled back* [=*pulled out*] at the last minute. **2** ***pull back or pull back (someone or something) or pull (someone or something) back*** : to move back from a place or position or to cause (someone or something) to move back from a place or position • The soldiers were outnumbered and were forced to *pull back*. [=*retreat, withdraw*] • The general *pulled* his army *back*. **3** ***pull (something) back or pull back (something)*** *Brit, sports* : to score (a goal, point, etc.) so that you are not as far behind in a game as you were before • They were behind 2–0 but they *pulled back* a goal [=they scored a goal to make the score 2–1] early in the second half.

pull down [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***pull down (something) or pull (something) down*** **a** : to move (something) down • I *pulled down* the shade. • He always wears his baseball cap *pulled down* over his eyes. **b** : to destroy (a building) completely • The wreckers *pulled down* [=*demolished*] the building. **c** : to make (something) smaller in amount or number : to reduce or lower (something) • The rumors that the company was filing for bankruptcy *pulled* stock prices *down*. **2** ***pull down (someone) or pull (someone) down*** *US, informal* : to cause (someone) to become sad or depressed • The loss really *pulled* the team *down*. [=brought the team down] **3** ***pull down (something)*** *informal* **a** : to earn (a particular and usually large amount of money) • He *pulls down* [=*makes, pulls in*] more than a million dollars a year. **b** : to get (something) • The show has *pulled down* high ratings.

pull for [*phrasal verb*] ***pull for (someone or something)*** *US, informal* : to say or show that you hope (someone or something) will succeed, get well, etc. • I hope you're feeling better soon. We're all *pulling for* you (to get well). • I'm *pulling* [=*rooting*] *for* the home team.

pull in [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to arrive at a place and come to a stop • "When are our guests coming?" "I think they just *pulled in*." • The train *pulled in* on time. **2** ***pull in (someone or something) or pull (someone or something) in*** : to attract (someone or something) • We hope the display will *pull* customers *in* from the street. • She's trying to *pull in* more votes. **3** ***pull in (something)*** *also* ***pull (something) in*** *informal* : to earn (a particular and usually large amount of money) • After just a couple of years at the firm, she was *pulling in* [=*pulling down, making*] more than $100,000. **4** ***pull (someone) in*** : to bring (someone) to a police station : to arrest (someone) • The police *pulled* him *in* for questioning.

pull off [*phrasal verb*] ***pull off (something) or pull (something) off*** **1** : to remove (something) from something else : to take off (something) • He *pulled off* the covers of the bed. • She *pulled* her boots *off*. **2** *informal* : to do (something difficult) successfully • We were doubtful the plan would work, but he managed to *pull* it *off*. • The team *pulled off* a win/upset.

pull on [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***pull on (something)*** : to hold onto and pull (something) repeatedly • When she gets nervous, she *pulls on* [=*pulls at*] her ear. **2** : to breathe in the smoke from (a cigarette, pipe, etc.) • He rocked back and forth, *pulling on* [=*pulling at*] his pipe. **3** ***pull on (something) or pull (something) on*** : to dress yourself in (clothing) • She

P

quickly *pulled on* [=*put on*] her clothes/sweater.

pull out [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to decide not to do something that you had intended to do or started to do ▪ The buyers of the house *pulled out* at the last minute. **2** ***pull out or pull out (someone or something) or pull (someone or something) out*** : to leave a place or position or to cause (someone or something) to leave a place or position ▪ The invading army was outnumbered and was forced to *pull out*. [=*withdraw*] ▪ Military leaders have decided to *pull* the troops *out* of the war zone. ▪ Organizations are *pulling out* of the country [=are leaving the country] due to threats of civil war. — see also PULLOUT

pull over [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***pull over or pull over (something) or pull (something) over*** : to move a vehicle to the side of the road and stop ▪ Let's *pull over* and look at the map. ▪ He *pulled* the car *over* to look at the map. **2** ***pull over (someone or something) or pull (someone or something) over*** : to force (a driver or vehicle) to move to the side of the road and stop ▪ He was *pulled over* (by the police) for speeding.

pull through [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to survive a serious illness, injury, operation, etc. ▪ We sat in the hospital waiting room praying that he would *pull through*. [=*live*] **2 a** ***pull through or pull through (something)*** : to get through a difficult situation ▪ I'm sure that the company will *pull through*, just as it has in difficult times in the past. ▪ It was a bad time for my family, but we managed to *pull through* it. **b** ***pull (someone or something) through*** : to help (someone or something) to continue to live or succeed in a dangerous or difficult situation ▪ His determination *pulled* him *through*. ▪ Outside financial help is needed to *pull* the company *through* its troubles.

pull together [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to work together as a group in order to get something done ▪ It was amazing to see so many people *pull together* to help the poor. **2 a** ***pull together (someone or something) or pull (someone or something) together*** : to bring (people or things) together and organize them in order to make or do something ▪ She managed to *pull* a team of researchers *together*. ▪ He started his research by *pulling together* all the available data. **b** ***pull together (something) or pull (something) together*** : to make (something) by bringing together different things ▪ The chef *pulled together* a menu of American and Italian cuisine. ▪ The boss asked her to *pull* a brief sales report *together*. **3** ***pull (yourself) together*** : to become calm again : to control your emotions and behavior after you have been very upset, emotional, etc. ▪ I know you're upset, but you need to *pull yourself together*. [=*calm down*]

pull up [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***pull up (something) or pull (something) up*** **a** : to move (something) up ▪ I *pulled up* the shade. **b** : to move (something) forward or into a position where it can be seen, used, etc. ▪ *Pull up* a chair and make yourself comfortable. ▪ Give me a moment to *pull up* your file on the computer. **2** ***pull up or pull (something) up or pull up (something)*** : to stop a vehicle at a particular place ▪ We *pulled up* in front of the house. ▪ He *pulled up* next to me at the stoplight. ▪ He *pulled* the car *up* in front of the house. **3** ***pull up*** : to stop suddenly before completing something ▪ A muscle spasm caused him to *pull up* halfway through the race. ▪ She started to answer and then ***pulled up short*** **4** ***pull (someone) up*** *Brit, informal* : to criticize (someone) severely for doing something ▪ Her boss *pulled* her *up* for/on being late.

[2]pull *noun, pl* **pulls**

1 [*count*] : the act of moving or trying to move something by holding it and bringing it toward you : the act of pulling something ▪ She gave the door a few hard *pulls* and it opened. ▪ Give the rope a *pull*. ▪ I felt a couple *pulls* [=*tugs*] on the fishing line.

2 [*noncount*] : special influence and power over other people ▪ He has a lot of *pull* in local political circles.

3 [*count*] : an ability or power to attract someone or to make someone want to go somewhere, do something, etc. — usually singular ▪ She has great box-office *pull*. [=she attracts a lot of people to her movies] ▪ She resisted the *pull* to abandon her principles to make more money. ▪ the irresistible *pull* of Hollywood for/on young actors and actresses

4 [*singular*] : a natural force that causes one thing (such as a planet) to be pulled toward another ▪ The planet has a strong gravitational *pull*. ▪ the *pull* of gravity

5 [*count*] : an injury that is caused by stretching a muscle, tendon, or ligament too much ▪ He is recovering from a muscle/groin *pull*.

6 [*count*] **a** : the act of breathing in smoke from a cigarette, cigar, pipe, etc. ▪ He just looked at me and ***took a pull on/off/at*** his cigarette before answering. **b** : the act of taking a long drink of something ▪ He ***took a long pull on*** his beer.

7 [*count*] : something (such as a handle or cord) that opens or operates something when it is pulled ▪ a drawer/bell *pull*

8 [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a difficult climb up a steep hill — usually singular ▪ a long *pull* uphill

pull•back /ˈpʊlˌbæk/ *noun, pl* **-backs** [*count*]

1 : an act of removing military troops from a position or an area ▪ the *pullback* [=*withdrawal*] of forces from the border

2 *formal* : an act of doing less or becoming less involved in something ▪ a *pullback* in consumer spending

pull–down menu *noun, pl* ~ **menus** [*count*] *computers* : DROP-DOWN MENU

pul•let /ˈpʊlət/ *noun, pl* **-lets** [*count*] : a young chicken and especially one that is less than a year old

pul•ley /ˈpʊli/ *noun, pl* **-leys** [*count*] : a wheel or set of wheels that is used with a rope, chain, etc., to lift or lower heavy objects



pulley

pulling power *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly Brit* : DRAWING POWER ▪ a performer with a lot of *pulling power*

Pull•man /ˈpʊlmən/ *noun, pl* **-mans** [*count*] : a comfortable railroad car that carries people and is used especially for overnight travel

pull•out /ˈpʊlˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*]

1 : an act of removing military troops from a position or an area ▪ A *pullout* of troops from the region has begun.

2 : a section of a newspaper, magazine, etc., that is meant to be removed and looked at separately ▪ That article is in the special *pullout* (section). ▪ a ten-page *pullout* — see also *pull out* at [1]PULL

pull•over /ˈpʊlˌoʊvɚ/ *noun, pl* **-overs** [*count*] : a piece of clothing (such as a sweater) that is put on by pulling it over your head ▪ She was wearing a light *pullover*. ▪ a *pullover* jacket/sweater — see color picture on page C15

pull tab *noun, pl* ~ **tabs** [*count*] *US* : a small metal ring on the top of a can or other container that you pull to open the container — called also (*Brit*) *ring pull*

pull–up /ˈpʊlˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*] : an exercise in which you hold onto a bar above your head and then pull your body up until your chin is above the bar ▪ doing *pull-ups* ▪ a *pull-up* bar — called also (*US*) *chin-up*

pul•mo•nary /ˈpʊlməˌneri, *Brit* ˈpʊlmənri/ *adj, always used before a noun, medical* : relating to the lungs ▪ the *pulmonary* arteries/veins

[1]pulp /ˈpʌlp/ *noun, pl* **pulps**

1 a [*noncount*] : the inner, juicy part of a fruit or vegetable ▪ The fruit has sweet, juicy *pulp* and hard, black seeds. ▪ the *pulp* of an orange **b** [*noncount*] : the substance that is left after the liquid has been squeezed from a fruit or vegetable ▪ I like to strain the *pulp* out of my orange juice. **c** : a soft, wet substance that is made by crushing something [*noncount*] The grain was mashed into *pulp*. [*singular*] mashed to a *pulp*

2 [*noncount*] : a soft material that is made mostly from wood and is used in making paper ▪ The boxes will be turned back into *pulp* and be made into newspapers. ▪ a *pulp* mill ▪ This paper is made from inexpensive ***wood pulp***.

3 [*count*] *US* : a magazine, book, etc., that is cheaply made and that deals with sex, drugs, violence, etc., in a shocking way ▪ He made a little extra money by writing stories for a science fiction *pulp*. — often used before another noun ▪ a *pulp* magazine ▪ ***pulp fiction***

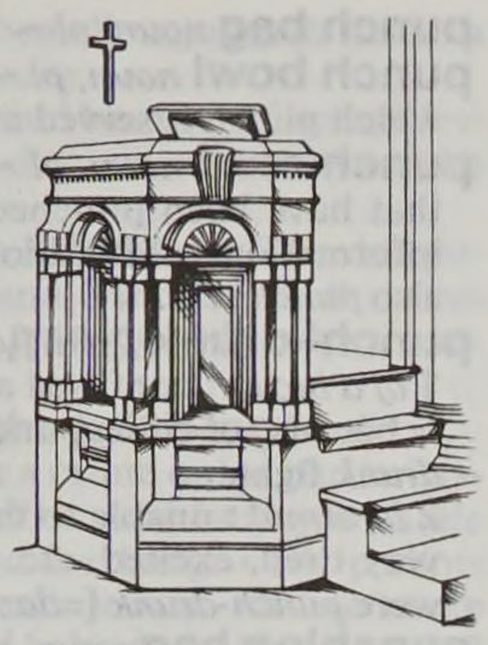
4 [*count, noncount*] *technical* : the soft tissue that is inside a tooth

to a pulp — used to say that someone or something is very badly beaten, mashed, smashed, etc. ▪ He threatened to ***beat them to a (bloody) pulp***.

– pulpy /ˈpʌlpi/ *adj* **pulp•i•er; -est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *pulpy* orange juice ▪ *pulpy* magazines

[2]pulp *verb* **pulps; pulped; pulp•ing** [+ *obj*] : to crush (something) until it is soft and wet : to make (something) into pulp ▪ They will *pulp* the unsold copies of the book. [=turn them into pulp for making paper] ▪ the wood *pulping* process

pul•pit /ˈpʊlˌpɪt/ *noun, pl* **-pits** [*count*] : a raised platform where a priest or minister stands when leading a worship service — usually singular ▪ The pastor ascended the *pulpit*. — often used figuratively ▪ The war crimes were denounced ***from the pulpit***. [=by priests and church leaders] ▪ People have different opinions about women ***in the pulpit***. [=as priests or church leaders; in the priesthood] — see also BULLY PULPIT



pulpit

pul•sar /ˈpʌlˌsɑɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sars** [*count*] *technical* : a type of star that gives off a rapidly repeating series of radio waves

pul•sate /ˈpʌlˌseɪt, *Brit* ˌpʌlˈseɪt/ *verb* **-sates**; **-sat•ed**; **-sat•ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to make strong and regular beats, sounds, flashes, etc. ▪ The lights *pulsated* with the music. ▪ People danced to the *pulsating* sounds of hip-hop.

2 : to be filled with activity or a feeling ▪ Virtually every scene of the movie *pulsates* with suspense.

– **pul•sa•tion** /ˌpʌlˈseɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*] ▪ artery *pulsations*

[1]pulse /ˈpʌls/ *noun, pl* **puls•es** [*count*]

1 : the regular movement of blood through your body that is caused by the beating of your heart and that can be felt by touching certain parts of your body — usually singular ▪ This machine measures *pulse* rate and blood pressure. ▪ a strong/weak *pulse* ▪ My *pulse* quickened when I heard the exciting news. = The exciting news set my *pulse* racing. [=the exciting news made my heart beat faster] ▪ She has a resting *pulse* of 60. [=when she is resting, her heart beats 60 times per minute] ▪ The nurse ***checked/took/felt my pulse***. [=measured how fast my heart was beating]

2 : a strong, regular beat or pattern of sounds in music — usually singular ▪ the strong *pulse* of the music

3 : a brief increase in an amount of electricity, light, or sound ▪ light *pulses* = *pulses* of light ▪ *pulse* waves

4 : the ideas, feelings, or opinions that are shared by a particular group of people — usually singular ▪ Her book is a good analysis of the political *pulse* of the nation.

finger on the pulse see [1]FINGER

[2]pulse *verb* **pulses**; **pulsed**; **puls•ing** [*no obj*]

1 a : to move with strong, regular beats ▪ When he gets angry, the veins in his forehead *pulse*. [=*throb*] ▪ He could feel the blood *pulsing* through his veins. — often used figuratively ▪ A rush of excitement *pulsed* through her body. [=she felt a sudden rush of excitement] **b** : to produce a strong, regular beat ▪ Dance music *pulsed* from the speakers.

2 : to be filled with activity or a feeling ▪ The city *pulses* with life.

pul•ver•ize *also Brit* **pul•ver•ise** /ˈpʌlvəˌraɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es**; **-ized**; **-iz•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *technical* : to crush, beat, or grind (something) into powder or dust ▪ The mower *pulverizes* grass clippings. ▪ Bits of *pulverized* rock filled the air.

2 *informal* : to destroy or defeat (someone or something) completely ▪ They *pulverized* the opposition.

pu•ma /ˈpuːmə, *Brit* ˈpjuːmə/ *noun, pl* **pu•mas** *also* **puma** [*count*] : COUGAR

pum•ice /ˈpʌməs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a gray stone that comes from volcanoes, is full of small holes, has a very light weight, and is used especially for smoothing and polishing things or for softening the skin — called also *pumice stone*

pum•mel /ˈpʌməl/ *verb* **-mels**; *US* **-meled** *or Brit* **-melled**; *US* **-mel•ing** *or Brit* **-mel•ling** [+ *obj*] : to repeatedly hit or punch (someone or something) very hard ▪ He *pummeled* [=*beat*] the intruder. ▪ She *pummeled* the steering wheel (with her fists). — often used figuratively ▪ They *pummeled* the opposition. ▪ Her last movie was *pummeled* by the critics.

[1]pump /ˈpʌmp/ *noun, pl* **pumps** [*count*]

1 : a device that forces liquid, air, or gas into or out of something ▪ an air *pump* ▪ a water *pump* ▪ a foot/hand *pump* [=a pump that you operate by using your foot/hand] ▪ a bicycle *pump* [=a small pump used for putting air in bicycle tires] ▪ (*US*) a ***gas pump*** = (*Brit*) a ***petrol pump*** — see picture at BICYCLE

2 : the act of pumping something ▪ Three more *pumps* and the tire should be full enough.

at the pump *also* ***at the pumps*** *US, informal* : at the places where customers buy gasoline for their cars ▪ Prices are higher *at the pump*. [=gas prices are higher] ▪ Expect long lines *at the pumps* this weekend. [=expect long lines at gas stations this weekend]

prime the pump see [3]PRIME

– compare [3]PUMP

[2]pump *verb* **pumps**; **pumped**; **pump•ing**

1 a : to move something (such as water, air, or gas) to or from a particular place with a pump [+ *obj*] He *pumped* the water up from the bottom of the boat. — often used figuratively ▪ The President hoped the tax cuts would help *pump* money back into the economy. ▪ She *pumped* all of her resources into starting her own business. [*no obj*] The machine suddenly stopped *pumping*. **b** [+ *obj*] : to remove water, air, etc., from (something) with a pump ▪ We *pumped* the boat dry. ▪ We had to *pump* the basement out. **c** [+ *obj*] : to remove the contents of (someone's stomach) by using a tube and a small pump ▪ Doctors had to *pump* (out) her stomach after she swallowed poison.

2 *of the heart* : to move (blood) through your body by beating [+ *obj*] Your heart *pumps* blood all over your body. [*no obj*] My heart started *pumping* [=*beating*] fast.

3 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] *of a liquid* : to flow in a series of movements caused by the action of a pump, by the beating of your heart, etc. ▪ I could feel the blood *pumping* through my veins. ▪ Blood *pumped* out of the cut.

4 : to move (something) up and down or in and out quickly and repeatedly [+ *obj*] He *pumped* his arms up and down as he ran. ▪ She *pumped* the handle of the well. ▪ *pump* the brake pedal [*no obj*] His leg nervously *pumped* up and down under the table.

5 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to question (someone) again and again to try to find out information — often + *for* ▪ The detective *pumped* them *for* information on the murder.

pump iron *informal* : to lift weights in order to make your muscles stronger ▪ I'm going to the gym to *pump* some *iron*.

pump out [*phrasal verb*] ***pump out (something)*** *or* ***pump (something) out*** *informal* : to produce (something) quickly and frequently ▪ The author *pumps out* a book every year.

pump (someone or something) full of (something) : to fill (someone or something) with (something) by using a pump ▪ They *pumped* the balloon *full of* helium. — often used figuratively ▪ He pulled out a gun and threatened to *pump* them *full of* bullets/lead. [=threatened to shoot them] ▪ She was *pumped full of* antibiotics/caffeine.

pump up [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***pump (something) up*** *or* ***pump up (something)*** : to fill (something, such as a tire) with air by using a pump : INFLATE ▪ I'll be ready to go for a bike ride after I *pump up* my tires. **2** ***pump (something) up*** *or* ***pump up (something)*** *informal* : to increase the amount, size, or value of (something) ▪ The company is trying hard to *pump up* sales. ▪ All of the praise *pumped up* her ego. **3** ***pump (someone) up*** *or* ***pump up (someone)*** : to fill (someone) with excitement or enthusiasm ▪ The coach made a speech to try and *pump up* his players. ▪ The team was (all) *pumped up* for the game.

[3]pump *noun, pl* **pumps** [*count*]

1 *US* : a woman's dress shoe with a high heel — usually plural ▪ She wore black leather *pumps* with her suit. — called also (*Brit*) *court shoe*

2 *Brit* : a light, soft shoe that is worn for dancing or exercise ▪ ballet *pumps*

– compare [1]PUMP

pumped /ˈpʌmpt/ *adj, US, informal* : excited and enthusiastic about something ▪ I'm *pumped* [=*pumped up*] for tonight's concert.

pum•per•nick•el /ˈpʌmpɚˌnɪkəl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a heavy and dark type of bread made from rye

pump•kin /ˈpʌmpkən/ *noun, pl* **-kins** [*count, noncount*] : a large, round, orange vegetable used as food and sometimes as a decoration — often used before another noun ▪ *pumpkin* pie ▪ *pumpkin* soup — see color picture on page C4

[1]pun /ˈpʌn/ *noun, pl* **puns** [*count*] : a humorous way of using a word or phrase so that more than one meaning is suggested ▪ She made a *pun*. ▪ The delicatessen is sandwiched, if you'll ***pardon/excuse/forgive the pun***, between two stores. ▪ She's a skillful pilot whose career has—***no pun intended***—really taken off. — often + *on* ▪ The name "Dew Drop Inn" is a *pun on* "do drop in."

[2]pun *verb* **puns; punned; pun•ning** : to make a pun [*no obj*] a *punning* headline — often + *on* ▪ *Punning on* her daughter's first name, she said, "Mary Christmas!" [+ *obj*] "Firefighting sparks my interest," he *punned*.

[1]punch /ˈpʌnʧ/ *verb* **punch•es; punched; punch•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to hit (someone or something) hard with your fist ▪ Stop *punching* your sister! ▪ He *punched* my face/nose/mouth/arm. ▪ He *punched* me in the face/nose/mouth/eye/belly. ▪ She *punched* him on the chin/jaw/arm.

2 *chiefly US* : to press or push (something) with a short, quick movement ▪ He quickly *punched* the buttons on his telephone.

3 : to make (a hole, dent, etc.) by pressing or cutting *in, into*, or *through* something ▪ She *punched* an opening *through* the dough with her finger. ▪ The tool *punches* holes *in* paper.

4 : to make a hole in (something, such as a ticket) by using a special tool ▪ The conductor *punched* my railway pass.

punch holes in : to weaken or destroy (an idea, plan, belief, etc.) by proving that parts of it are wrong ▪ Lawyers tried to *punch holes in* her argument.

punch in [*phrasal verb*] *US* **1** : to place a card in a time clock at the beginning of a workday so that the time is recorded on the card ▪ The crew *punched in* [=(*chiefly Brit*) *clocked in*] at 8:00. **2 *punch (something) in or punch in (something)*** : to enter (information, such as words or numbers) into a computer or other machine by pressing buttons or keys ▪ She *punched in* her secret code.

punch out [*phrasal verb*] *US* **1** : to place a card in a time clock at the end of a workday so that the time is recorded on the card ▪ It's time to *punch out*. **2 *punch (someone) out or punch out (someone)*** *informal* : to hit (someone) repeatedly in order to cause pain or injury : to beat (someone) up ▪ He threatened to *punch* me *out* if I talked to his girlfriend again.

punch someone's lights out *informal* : to hit someone's face hard with your fist ▪ It's a good thing he's not here, or I'd *punch his lights out*.

punch up [*phrasal verb*] ***punch (something) up or punch up (something)*** *US, informal* : to make (something) more lively, exciting, attractive, etc. ▪ New owners *punched up* the newspaper with color photographs. ▪ The steak was *punched up* with a pepper sauce.

– **punch•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a card *puncher* ▪ He was the greatest *puncher* in the history of boxing.

[2]punch *noun, pl* **punches**

1 [*count*] : a quick hit with your fist ▪ throw/land a *punch* ▪ kicks and *punches* ▪ He gave me a *punch* in the nose. [=he punched me in the nose] — see also RABBIT PUNCH, SUCKER PUNCH

2 [*noncount*] : energy or forcefulness ▪ The team was well trained but lacked *punch*. ▪ The last sentence in your essay needs more *punch*.

(as) pleased as punch see PLEASED

beat (someone) to the punch : to do or achieve something before someone else is able to ▪ We were working on a new product but our competition *beat us to the punch*. [=our competition started selling a similar product before we did]

pack a punch see [2]PACK

pull punches : to express criticism in a mild or kind way — usually used in negative statements ▪ When he has something bad to say about a movie, he doesn't *pull* his/any *punches*. [=he does not try to make his criticisms seem less harsh than they are] ▪ The report ***pulls no punches*** in blaming the government for this crisis.

roll with the punches see [1]ROLL

– compare [3]PUNCH, [4]PUNCH

[3]punch *noun, pl* **punches** : a drink made usually by mixing different fruit juices and often flavored with wine or liquor [*count*] a fruit *punch* [*noncount*] They plan to serve *punch* at the party. ▪ a bowl/glass of *punch* — see also PUNCH BOWL — compare [2]PUNCH, [4]PUNCH

[4]punch *noun, pl* **punches** [*count*]

1 : a tool or machine for cutting holes in paper, cardboard, leather, etc. ▪ a paper *punch*

2 : a hole made by a cutting tool or machine ▪ He got an extra *punch* on his discount card.

– compare [2]PUNCH, [3]PUNCH

Punch–and–Judy show /ˌpʌnʧənˈʤu:di-/ *noun, pl* ~ **shows** [*count*] : a comic puppet show in which a puppet named Punch fights with his wife Judy

punch bag *noun, pl* ~ **bags** [*count*] *Brit* : PUNCHING BAG

punch bowl *noun, pl* ~ **bowls** [*count*] : a large bowl from which punch is served at a party

punch card *noun, pl* ~ **cards** [*count*] : a card with holes that have been punched in different positions to represent information ▪ old-fashioned computer *punch cards* — called also *punched card*

punch–drunk /ˈpʌnʧˌdrʌŋk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 *of a boxer* : confused and unable to speak or move normally because of being punched many times in the head ▪ *punch-drunk* fighters

2 *informal* : unable to think or act normally because you are very tired, excited, etc. ▪ By the time we arrived home, we were *punch-drunk* [=*dazed*] with fatigue.

punching bag *noun, pl* ~ **bags** [*count*] *US* : a very heavy bag that usually hangs from the ceiling and that is punched for exercise or training — often used figuratively to describe someone who is often criticized, hit, or defeated by another person ▪ I'm tired of being your *punching bag*. — called also (*Brit*) *punch bag*

punch line *noun, pl* ~ **lines** [*count*] : the words at the end of a joke or story that make it funny, surprising, etc. ▪ She didn't understand the *punch line*.

punch–up /ˈpʌnʧˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : a fight in which people punch each other

punchy /ˈpʌnʧi/ *adj* **punch•i•er; -est** *informal*

1 : very exciting or lively ▪ *punchy* colors ▪ a *punchy* tune ▪ *punchy* dialogue ▪ shrimp in a *punchy* sauce

2 *US* : PUNCH-DRUNK ▪ a *punchy* ex-fighter ▪ She was *punchy* with fatigue.

punc•til•i•ous /ˌpʌŋkˈtɪlijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : very careful about behaving properly and doing things in a correct and accurate way ▪ She's very *punctilious* about grammar. ▪ a *punctilious* [=*meticulous*] caretaker

– **punc•til•i•ous•ly** *adv* ▪ They do their jobs *punctiliously*.

– **punc•til•i•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

punc•tu•al /ˈpʌŋkʧəwəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : arriving or doing something at the expected or planned time ▪ The trains were *punctual*. ▪ a *punctual* employee

– **punc•tu•al•i•ty** /ˌpʌŋkʧəˈwæləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Workers received bonuses for *punctuality*. – **punc•tu•al•ly** *adv* ▪ She arrived *punctually* at 7:00.

punc•tu•ate /ˈpʌŋkʧəˌweɪt/ *verb* **-ates; -at•ed; -at•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to use punctuation marks in (a piece of writing) ▪ Do you know how to *punctuate* a sentence correctly? ▪ an improperly *punctuated* sentence

2 : to interrupt or occur in (something) repeatedly — usually used as *(be) punctuated* ▪ Her speech *was punctuated* by frequent applause.

punc•tu•a•tion /ˌpʌŋkʧəˈweɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the marks (such as periods and commas) in a piece of writing that make its meaning clear and that separate it into sentences, clauses, etc. ▪ grammar, *punctuation*, and spelling

punctuation mark *noun, pl* ~ **marks** [*count*] : any one of the marks (such as a period, comma, or question mark) used to divide a piece of writing into sentences, clauses, etc.

[1]punc•ture /ˈpʌŋkʧə/ *noun, pl* **-tures** [*count*]

1 : a hole or wound made by a sharp point ▪ a slight *puncture* of the skin

2 : a small hole in a tire that causes it to lose air ▪ I got/had a *puncture* [=(*US*) *flat, flat tire*] on the way to the airport.

[2]puncture *verb* **-tures; -tured; -tur•ing**

1 : to make a hole in (something) with a sharp point [+ *obj*] A nail *punctured* the tire. = The tire was *punctured* by a nail. [*no obj*] Worn tires *puncture* easily.

2 [+ *obj*] : to weaken, damage, or destroy (something, such as an argument or a person's feelings, pride, etc.) suddenly or in a way that causes surprise or embarrassment ▪ *puncture* an argument ▪ Their criticism *punctured* [=*hurt, wounded*] his self-esteem.

3 [+ *obj*] *of a sound* : to interrupt (silence) in a sudden and unexpected way ▪ The silence was *punctured* [=*broken, shattered*] by her cry.

– **punctured** *adj* ▪ a *punctured* [=*perforated*] eardrum ▪ *punctured* tires

pun•dit /ˈpʌndət/ *noun, pl* **-dits** [*count*] : a person who knows a lot about a particular subject and who expresses ideas and opinions about that subject publicly (such as by speaking on television and radio shows) ▪ political *pundits* ▪ a television *pundit*

pun•gent /ˈpʌnʤənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : having a strong, sharp taste or smell ▪ a *pungent* herb ▪ a *pungent* aroma/odor ▪ a *pungent* sauce
2 : having a strong effect on the mind because of being clever and direct ▪ a play with *pungent* dialogue ▪ a *pungent* satire of/on current politics
– **pun•gen•cy** /'pʌnʤənsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The delightful *pungency* of Thai, Indian, and Mexican food comes from chili peppers and spices. – **pun•gent•ly** *adv* ▪ a *pungently* sweet aroma

pun•ish /'pʌnɪʃ/ *verb* **-ish•es**; **-ished**; **-ish•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 a : to make (someone) suffer for a crime or for bad behavior ▪ I think that murderers should be *punished* by/with life imprisonment. ▪ She was *punished* for lying. ▪ His parents *punished* him by taking away his allowance. **b** : to make someone suffer for (a crime or bad behavior) ▪ How should I *punish* my child's misbehavior? ▪ State law *punishes* fraud with fines. ▪ The law states that treason shall be *punished* by death. [=that the punishment for treason is death]
2 : to treat (someone or something) severely or roughly ▪ I don't understand why women continue to *punish* [=*damage*] their feet by wearing high-heeled shoes.

pun•ish•able /'pʌnɪʃəbəl/ *adj* : able to be punished : calling for or deserving punishment ▪ Jaywalking is a *punishable* offense in this city. ▪ a crime *punishable* by death [=a crime that has death as a possible punishment]

punishing *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very harsh, difficult, or extreme ▪ Few people can handle Antarctica's *punishing* cold. ▪ She had a *punishing* schedule of six classes last semester.

pun•ish•ment /'pʌnɪʃmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**
1 : the act of punishing someone or a way of punishing someone [*count*] I took away my daughter's car keys as a *punishment* for her bad behavior. ▪ The *punishments* that the government has inflicted/imposed on the protesters are severe and unjust. ▪ The *punishment* for murder is life imprisonment. [*noncount*] I took away my daughter's car keys as (a form of) *punishment* for her bad behavior. ▪ ***cruel and unusual punishment*** [=punishment that is very painful or harsh or that is too severe for a particular crime] — see also CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, CORPORAL PUNISHMENT
2 [*noncount*] : the state of being punished ▪ Some religions teach that wicked people will suffer eternal *punishment* in hell after they die.
3 [*noncount*] : rough physical treatment ▪ These hiking boots are tough enough to take any amount of *punishment*. [=the boots will not be ruined even if they are used very roughly] ▪ He keeps playing football despite all his injuries. I guess he's a ***glutton/sucker for punishment***. [=he is attracted to pain, suffering, difficulty, etc.]

pu•ni•tive /'pju:nətɪv/ *adj*
1 : intended to punish someone or something ▪ The federal government will take *punitive* action against the company that polluted the river. ▪ *punitive* measures ▪ The plaintiff will receive $50,000 in compensatory damages and $300,000 in ***punitive damages***. [=money that someone is ordered to pay as a punishment for causing harm]
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : extremely or unfairly severe or high ▪ Lobbyists complain that the bill would impose ***punitive taxes*** on the industry.
– **pu•ni•tive•ly** *adv*

punk /'pʌŋk/ *noun, pl* **punks**
1 [*count*] *US, informal + disapproving* : a rude and violent young man ▪ Why can't the police do more to get the *punks* off our streets?
2 [*noncount*] **a** : a kind of loud and intense rock music that was most popular from the late 1970s to the early 1980s — often used before another noun ▪ a *punk* musician ▪ a *punk* band — called also *punk rock* **b** [*count*] : a person who plays punk rock or who is a fan of punk rock — called also *punk rocker*

pun•net /'pʌnət/ *noun, pl* **-nets** [*count*] *Brit* : a small box that is used to hold soft fruits (such as strawberries and blueberries)

[1]punt /'pʌnt/ *verb* **punts**; **punt•ed**; **punt•ing**
1 *sports* : to drop a ball and kick it before it touches the ground in sports like American football and rugby [+ *obj*] The kicker *punted* the ball 40 yards. [*no obj*] They *punted* from midfield.
2 *US, informal* : to avoid dealing with a problem or answering a question [*no obj*] The legislature has *punted* on important issues like health-care funding and tax reform. [+ *obj*] The judges are *punting* the decision to Congress. [=the judges are not making the decision themselves and are saying that Congress should decide]
– compare [4]PUNT

[2]punt *noun, pl* **punts** [*count*] *sports* : a kick made by dropping a ball and kicking it before it touches the ground : the act of punting a ball in sports like American football and rugby ▪ a 40-yard *punt* — compare [3]PUNT, [5]PUNT, [6]PUNT

[3]punt *noun, pl* **punts** [*count*] : a long, thin boat with a flat bottom and square ends that is moved by pushing a long pole against the bottom of a river, canal, etc. — compare [2]PUNT, [5]PUNT, [6]PUNT

[4]punt *verb* **punts**; **punt•ed**; **punt•ing** [*no obj*] *chiefly Brit* : to go on a river, canal, etc. in a long, thin boat (called a punt) ▪ Do you want to ***go punting*** tomorrow? — compare [1]PUNT

[5]punt /'pʊnt/ *noun, pl* **punts** [*count*] : the basic unit of money used in the Republic of Ireland before the euro — compare [2]PUNT, [3]PUNT, [6]PUNT

[6]punt /'pʌnt/ *noun, pl* **punts** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : [1]BET 1 ▪ Maybe I'll take a *punt* on that horse. [=maybe I'll make/place a bet on that horse] — compare [2]PUNT, [3]PUNT, [5]PUNT

punt•er /'pʌntɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*]
1 *American football* : a player whose job is to punt the ball ▪ He was one of the greatest *punters* in NFL history.
2 *Brit, informal* : someone who makes a bet : BETTOR
3 *Brit, informal* : CUSTOMER ▪ Effective marketing means getting the *punters* to buy what you want them to buy. ▪ The sale attracted more than 1,000 *punters*.
4 *chiefly Brit* : a person who goes on a river, canal, etc., in a long, thin boat (called a punt)

pu•ny /'pju:ni/ *adj* **pu•ni•er**; **-est** *somewhat informal*
1 : small and weak ▪ a *puny* little guy ▪ I wouldn't mess with him—he makes bodybuilders look *puny* in comparison.
2 : not very large, impressive, or effective ▪ *puny* weapons ▪ a *puny* little car ▪ We laughed at their *puny* attempt to trick us.

pup /'pʌp/ *noun, pl* **pups** [*count*] : a young dog : PUPPY ▪ a cute little *pup*; *also* : one of the young of various animals other than dogs ▪ seal *pups*
buy/sell a pup *Brit, informal + old-fashioned* ✧ To *buy a pup* means to pay too much money for something or to buy something that is worthless. To *sell (someone) a pup* means to trick someone into paying too much for something or into buying something that is worthless.

pu•pa /'pju:pə/ *noun, pl* **pu•pae** /'pju:ˌpi:/ [*count*] *biology* : an insect that is in the stage of development between larva and adult
– **pu•pal** /'pju:pəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ the *pupal* stage of an insect's life

pu•pate /'pju:ˌpeɪt/ *verb* **-pates**; **-pat•ed**; **-pat•ing** [*no obj*] *biology* : to become a pupa ▪ Unlike most butterflies, this species *pupates* underground.

[1]pu•pil /'pju:pəl/ *noun, pl* **-pils** [*count*]
1 : a child or young person who is being taught : STUDENT ▪ There are 22 *pupils* in the kindergarten class.
2 : someone who is taught especially artistic or musical skills by a usually famous person : DISCIPLE ▪ a painting by a *pupil* of Rubens ▪ Both Rimsky-Korsakov and his *pupil* Stravinsky are renowned composers of classical music. ▪ Aristotle was Plato's most brilliant *pupil*.
– compare [2]PUPIL

[2]pupil *noun, pl* **-pils** [*count*] : the small, black, round area at the center of the eye — see picture at EYE — compare [1]PUPIL

pup•pet /'pʌpət/ *noun, pl* **-pets** [*count*]
1 : a doll that is moved by putting your hand inside it or by pulling strings or wires that are attached to it
2 : a person or an organization that is controlled by another person or organization ▪ a dictator who was perceived as being an American *puppet* ▪ a ***puppet regime*** [=a government controlled by the government of another country]


puppet

pup•pe•teer /ˌpʌpə'tiɚ/ *noun, pl* **-teers** [*count*] : a person who uses puppets in performances to entertain people

pup•pet•ry /'pʌpətri/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the skill or activity of using puppets in performances

pup•py /'pʌpi/ *noun, pl* **-pies** [*count*]
1 : a young dog ▪ Our dog just had four *puppies*.
2 *US, informal* **a** — used in a playful way to refer to a thing

▪ Why isn't the grill on? Fire that *puppy* up! [=turn on the grill] ▪ This is a big program. You'll need a lot of RAM to run this *puppy* on your computer. **b** — used in a playful way to refer to a person ▪ If they thought the new mayor would be easy to bribe, they picked the wrong *puppy*. [=the wrong guy] ▪ That guy is ***one sick puppy***. [=that guy is crazy, cruel, or disgusting] ▪ I was ***one tired puppy*** [=I was very tired] after a long day of hiking.

puppy fat *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : BABY FAT

puppy love *noun* [*noncount*] : romantic love that is felt by a child or teenager and that is not considered by adults to be real love

pup tent *noun, pl* ~ **tents** [*count*] *US* : a small tent for usually two people

[1]pur•chase /'pɚʧəs/ *verb* **-chas•es**; **-chased**; **-chas•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to buy (property, goods, etc.) : to get (something) by paying money for it ▪ *purchase* a house ▪ He *purchased* a new suit for a hundred dollars. ▪ Souvenirs can be *purchased* at the gift shop. = You can *purchase* souvenirs at the gift shop.

– **pur•chas•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] – **purchasing** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *purchasing* agents ▪ the company's ***purchasing department*** [=the people in a company who buy the company's supplies]

[2]purchase *noun, pl* **-chases**

1 : an act of buying something [*count*] credit card *purchases* ▪ cash *purchases* [*noncount*] The CD player is guaranteed for one year from the date of *purchase*. ▪ Getting a rebate requires ***proof of purchase***. [=something, such as a receipt, that proves that you bought something]

2 [*count*] : something that is bought ▪ The car was an expensive *purchase*. ▪ He displayed his recent *purchases* with pride.

3 : a firm hold or grip that makes movement possible [*singular*] The ice made it impossible for the car's wheels to ***gain/get a purchase*** on the road. [*noncount*] The surface was so slick that the wheels couldn't *gain purchase*. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ I couldn't *get a purchase* on the problem. [=I couldn't get a good understanding of the problem]

purchase order *noun, pl* ~ **-ders** [*count*] : a formal document that is used by an employee to request that something be purchased by a company

purchase price *noun, pl* ~ **prices** [*count*] : the amount of money someone pays for something (such as a house)

purchasing power *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the amount of money that a person or group has available to spend ▪ Inflation decreases consumer *purchasing power*. — called also *buying power*

2 : the value of money thought of as how much it can buy ▪ a decline in the *purchasing power* of the dollar

pur•dah /'pɚdə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a custom among Muslims and some Hindus in which women stay separate from men or keep their faces and bodies covered when they are near men ▪ Most of the women ***keep purdah***. [=live according to the rules of purdah]

pure /'pjɚ/ *adj* **pur•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : not mixed with anything else ▪ *pure* gold/silver ▪ *pure* silk/cotton/wool/cashmere ▪ *pure* orange juice ▪ *pure* honey ▪ *pure* maple syrup ▪ *pure* olive oil ▪ *pure* white ▪ I was acting on *pure* intuition/instinct. [=only because of intuition/instinct and not for any other reason]

2 : clean and not harmful in any way ▪ The company bottles only the *purest* water. ▪ *pure* mountain air

3 : having a smooth and clear sound that is not mixed with any other sounds ▪ the *pure* notes of the flute

4 *always used before a noun* : COMPLETE, TOTAL — used for emphasis ▪ *pure* [=*utter*] nonsense/folly/fantasy ▪ *pure* joy/delight ▪ *pure* evil ▪ It was *pure* coincidence/chance/luck that we met. ▪ The story was *pure* fiction.

5 : morally good : free from sexual or evil thoughts ▪ a *pure* and upright man ▪ a *pure* heart ▪ *pure* intentions ▪ Don't expect me to believe you're ***(as) pure as the driven snow***. [=morally perfect]

6 *always used before a noun* : relating to theory and knowledge rather than to the practical uses of something ▪ the *pure* sciences ▪ *pure* mathematics

7 : PUREBRED ▪ a *pure* Arabian horse ▪ a *pure* breed of cattle

pure and simple : with nothing other than what has been mentioned — used after a noun or phrase to add emphasis ▪ It was fraud, *pure and simple*. ▪ The relationship is over, *pure and simple*. [=the relationship is completely over]

– **pure•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

pure•bred /'pjɚˌbrɛd/ *adj, of animals* : having parents that are of the same breed ▪ *purebred* cattle ▪ a *purebred* horse – **purebred** *noun, pl* **-breds** [*count*] ▪ The dog is not a *purebred*.

[1]pu•ree *or* **pu•rée** /pjʊ'reɪ, *Brit* 'pjʊəreɪ/ *noun, pl* **-rees** : a thick liquid made by crushing usually cooked food (such as fruits or vegetables) [*noncount*] a spoonful of apple *puree* [*count*] a *puree* of sweet potatoes and carrots ▪ vegetable/fruit *purees*

[2]puree *or* **purée** *verb* **-rees**; **-reed**; **-ree•ing** [+ *obj*] : to crush (food) until it is a thick liquid : to make a puree of (food) ▪ She used a blender to *puree* the soup.

– **pureed** *or* **puréed** *adj* ▪ *pureed* carrots/vegetables ▪ a sauce made with *pureed* berries/beans

pure•ly /'pjɚli/ *adv* : completely or only ▪ They met *purely* by accident/coincidence. ▪ a selection based *purely* on merit ▪ He reads *purely* [=*simply, merely*] for enjoyment. [=he reads only because he enjoys reading] ▪ The organization's mission, ***purely and simply***, is to provide food to people who need it. ▪ It was *purely and simply* a matter of greed.

pur•ga•tive /'pɚgətɪv/ *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*] *medical* : a medicine or food that causes the bowels to empty

pur•ga•to•ry /'pɚgəˌtori, *Brit* 'pɚ:gətri/ *noun, pl* **-ries**

1 ***Purgatory*** [*singular*] : a state after death according to Roman Catholic belief in which the souls of people who die are made pure through suffering before going to heaven

2 : a place or state of suffering [*noncount*] the *purgatory* of drug abuse [*count*] The marathons were jokingly referred to as one-day *purgatories*.

[1]purge /'pɚʤ/ *verb* **purg•es**; **purged**; **purg•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to remove people from an area, country, organization, etc., often in a violent and sudden way ▪ *purge* a country of an ethnic group = *purge* an ethnic group from a country ▪ High-ranking officials were *purged* from the company following the merger.

2 : to cause something to leave the body ▪ medicines that *purge* the body of toxins = medicines that *purge* toxins from the body

binge and purge see [2]BINGE

purge yourself : to free yourself of something (such as a bad feeling or memory) ▪ He *purged himself* of his old fears. [=he got rid of his old fears; he overcame his old fears]

[2]purge *noun, pl* **purges** [*count*] : the often violent and sudden removal of people from an area, country, organization, etc. ▪ Stalin's *purges* ▪ brutal postwar *purges* ▪ a corporate *purge*

pu•ri•fi•er /'pjɚrəˌfajɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a device that is used for removing dirty or harmful substances ▪ We installed a water/air *purifier* in our home.

pu•ri•fy /'pjɚrəˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something or someone) pure: such as **a** : to remove dirty or harmful substances from (something) ▪ We *purified* the water by boiling it. ▪ You can *purify* the air with a filtration system. ▪ a bottle of *purified* water **b** : to free (someone) from guilt or evil thoughts ▪ *purify* the mind/soul ▪ She believed she could *purify* herself through constant prayer.

– **pu•ri•fi•ca•tion** /ˌpjɚrəfə'keɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ air/water *purification* ▪ the *purification* of souls

pur•ist /'pjɚrɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who has very strong ideas about what is correct or acceptable and who usually opposes changes to traditional methods and practices ▪ jazz/music *purists* ▪ a *purist* who only drinks European wines ▪ a grammatical *purist*

– **pur•ism** /'pjɚˌɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]

pu•ri•tan /'pjɚrətən/ *noun, pl* **-tans** [*count*]

1 ***Puritan*** : a member of a Protestant group in England and New England in the 16th and 17th centuries that opposed many customs of the Church of England

2 : a person who follows strict moral rules and who believes that pleasure is wrong ▪ moral *puritans* ▪ She's a *puritan* about sex.

– **Puritan** *adj* ▪ *Puritan* values/traditions/attitudes ▪ a *Puritan* influence ▪ the *Puritan* work ethic

pu•ri•tan•i•cal /ˌpjɚrə'tænɪkəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving* : very strict especially concerning morals and religion ▪ *puritanical* rules ▪ *puritanical* attitudes about sex

pu•ri•tan•ism /'pjɚrətənˌɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 ***Puritanism*** : the beliefs and practices of Puritans

2 *often disapproving* : the beliefs and practices of people who follow very strict moral and religious rules about the proper way to behave and live ▪ moral *puritanism*

pu•ri•ty /'pjɚrəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being pure: such as **a** : lack of dirty or harmful substances ▪

water *purity* **b** : lack of guilt or evil thoughts ▪ moral/religious/sexual *purity*

purl /ˈpəl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a stitch used in knitting — usually used before another noun ▪ a *purl* stitch

– **purl** *verb* **purls**; **purled**; **purl·ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ *Purl* two stitches. [*no obj*] *Purl* across the row.

pur·lieu /ˈpəlˌju:/ *noun, pl* **-lieus** [*count*] *formal* : the area surrounding a place — usually plural ▪ the *purlieus* of the old fortress

pur·loin /pəˈlɔɪn/ *verb* **-loins**; **-loined**; **-loin·ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* + *humorous* : to take (something that belongs to someone else) : STEAL ▪ He managed to *purloin* [=*filch*] a bottle of whiskey when no one was looking.

– **purloined** *adj* ▪ *purloined* [=*stolen*] love letters

[1]pur·ple /ˈpəpəl/ *noun, pl* **pur·ples** [*count, noncount*] : a color that is between red and blue — see color picture on page C1

[2]purple *adj* **pur·pler**; **pur·plest**

1 : of the color purple ▪ *purple* grapes/tulips

2 *disapproving* : using many fancy words ▪ The book contains a few *purple* passages. ▪ Her writing was full of ***purple prose***.

Purple Heart *noun, pl* ~ **Hearts** [*count*] : a U.S. military award that is given to a soldier who is wounded or killed in battle

purple patch *noun* [*singular*] *Brit, informal* : a period of good luck or success ▪ The team enjoyed a *purple patch* in the first half.

pur·plish /ˈpəpəlɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : somewhat purple ▪ a *purplish* blue

[1]pur·port /ˈpəˌpoət/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the main or general meaning of something (such as a speech or a person's actions) ▪ the *purport* of the book/visit ▪ The letter was not read aloud, but all present were informed of its *purport*.

[2]pur·port /pəˈpoət/ *verb* **-ports**; **-port·ed**; **-port·ing** [+ *obj*] : to claim to be or do a particular thing when this claim may not be true — followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ The report *purports to be* objective. [=it claims to be objective, but it may not be] ▪ The program *purports to meet* the needs of gifted students. ▪ The survey does not *purport to be* conclusive.

pur·port·ed /pəˈpoətəd/ *adj, always used before a noun* : said to be true or real but not definitely true or real ▪ the *purported* [=*alleged*] crime ▪ the *purported* value of the estate

– **pur·port·ed·ly** *adv* ▪ diaries *purportedly* [=*supposedly*] written by a famous author

pur·pose /ˈpəpəs/ *noun, pl* **-pos·es**

1 [*count*] : the reason why something is done or used : the aim or intention of something ▪ The *purpose* of the new resort is to attract more tourists. ▪ There's little/no *purpose* in restarting the process. [=there is little/no reason to start the process again] ▪ These ancient mounds were probably used for ceremonial *purposes*. [=were probably used in ceremonies] ▪ Please keep a record of your receipts for tax/business *purposes*. [=for situations involving taxes/business] ▪ Everything on the boat ***serves a purpose***. [=everything has a particular use or function] ▪ The loans are small but they ***serve a good purpose***. ▪ We were happy to know that the money was being used ***for a good purpose***. [=for something useful, important, etc.] ▪ She used her skills ***to (no) good purpose***. [=she used her skills in a way that was (not) good or helpful] ▪ Changes had suddenly been made ***for no apparent purpose***. [=for no clear reason] ▪ ***For the purpose(s) of*** this discussion, let's assume that sales will increase next year.

2 [*noncount*] : the feeling of being determined to do or achieve something ▪ She wrote with *purpose*. [=she knew exactly what she wanted to write] ▪ Sometimes his life seemed to lack *purpose* or meaning. ▪ He was a man of *purpose*. [=he was very clear about what he wanted to do and how to do it] ▪ We started work again with a renewed ***sense of purpose***. ▪ He showed great ***strength of purpose***. [=he showed that he was very determined to achieve his goals]

3 [*count*] : the aim or goal of a person : what a person is trying to do, become, etc. ▪ She knew from a young age that her sole *purpose* (in life) was to be a writer. [=she knew that all she wanted (in life) was to be a writer] ▪ We shared a ***common purpose***. [=we had the same goals] ▪ He was searching for ***a higher purpose***. [=a more meaningful reason to live, work, etc.]

for (all) practical purposes see [1]PRACTICAL

on purpose : in a way that is planned or intended : in a deliberate way ▪ Someone set the fire *on purpose*. [=*purposely, intentionally*] ▪ I knew she hadn't done it *on purpose*.

to/for all intents and purposes see [1]INTENT

to the purpose *old-fashioned* : appropriate to the situation ▪ He didn't say much *to the purpose*. [=he didn't say much that was useful or helpful]

pur·pose–built /ˌpəpəsˈbɪlt/ *adj, Brit* : designed and built for a particular use ▪ The art is housed in a *purpose-built* structure that provides a controlled environment.

pur·pose·ful /ˈpəpəsfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a clear aim or purpose ▪ *purposeful* activity ▪ a *purposeful* glance/grin

– **pur·pose·ful·ly** *adv* ▪ She strode *purposefully* to the door and knocked loudly. – **pur·pose·ful·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

pur·pose·less /ˈpəpəsləs/ *adj* : having or seeming to have no purpose or reason ▪ I have to go to another *purposeless* [=(more commonly) *pointless, useless*] meeting tonight. ▪ *purposeless* suffering

pur·pose·ly /ˈpəpəsli/ *adv* : in a way that is planned or intended : in a deliberate way ▪ She *purposely* [=*intentionally*] raised her voice to attract attention.

[1]purr /ˈpə/ *noun, pl* **purrs** [*count*]

1 : the low, soft sound that a cat makes when it is happy

2 : a sound that is like the purr of a cat ▪ the soft *purr* of a car engine

[2]purr *verb* **purrs**; **purred**; **purr·ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to make a purr or a sound like a purr ▪ The cat was *purring* contentedly in my lap. ▪ The cars were *purring* along the highway. ▪ The engine *purred* smoothly.

2 [+ *obj*] : to say (something) in a soft, low voice especially when you are pleased or trying to persuade someone to do something ▪ "You look tense. Let me buy you a drink," he *purred*.

[1]purse /ˈpəs/ *noun, pl* **purs·es**

1 [*count*] **a** *US* : a usually leather or cloth bag used by women for carrying money and personal things : HANDBAG **b** *chiefly Brit* : CHANGE PURSE

2 [*singular*] : an amount of money that a person, organization, or government has available to use ▪ Many believe the work should be financed by the ***public purse***. [=should be paid for by the government]

3 [*count*] : an amount of money that is offered as a prize in a competition (such as a horse race, a golf tournament, or a boxing match) ▪ a golf tournament with a million dollar *purse*

purse strings ✧ A person, organization, or government that ***holds/controls the purse strings*** makes the decisions about how money is spent. ▪ The museum's board of directors *holds/controls the purse strings*. When a person, organization, or government ***tightens the purse strings***, less money is available for spending. ▪ School administrators are already *tightening (the) purse strings*. When a person, organization, or government ***loosens the purse strings***, more money is available for spending. ▪ Companies are expected to *loosen the purse strings* as the economy improves.

[2]purse *verb* **purses**; **pursed**; **purs·ing** [+ *obj*] : to form (your lips) into a tight circle or line ▪ She *pursed* her lips in concentration. ▪ His lips were tightly *pursed*.

purs·er /ˈpəsə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : an officer on a ship whose job is to handle matters relating to money for the passengers and crew and to make sure passengers are comfortable and have what they need

pur·su·ance /pəˈsu:wəns, *Brit* pəˈsju:əns/ *noun*

in pursuance of *formal* : in order to do (something) or to do what is required by (something) ▪ The changes will be made *in pursuance of* the contract.

pur·su·ant to /pəˈsu:wənt-, *Brit* pəˈsju:ənt-/ *prep, formal* : in a way that agrees with or follows (something) : in accordance with (something) ▪ *Pursuant to* the terms of the sale, the owner shall be solely responsible for damages.

pur·sue /pəˈsu:, *Brit* pəˈsju:/ *verb* **-sues**; **-sued**; **-su·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to follow and try to catch or capture (someone or something) for usually a long distance or time ▪ Hounds *pursued* the fox for miles. ▪ The criminal is being *pursued* by police.

2 : to try to get or do (something) over a period of time ▪ He chose to *pursue* a college degree. ▪ She wants to *pursue* a legal career.

3 : to be involved in (an activity) ▪ *pursue* a hobby

4 : to move along (a course) ▪ The ship *pursued* [=*followed*] a northerly course.

5 : to make an effort to find out more about (something) ▪ I'll be meeting with my lawyer to *pursue* this matter further. ▪

My associate is interested in *pursuing* the case.
– **pur•su•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ He changed direction to confuse his *pursuers*.

pur•suit /pəˈsu:t, *Brit* pəˈsju:t/ *noun, pl* **-suits**
1 [*noncount*] : the act of pursuing someone or something: such as **a** : the act of following or chasing someone or something ▪ The hounds were running in the woods ***in pursuit of*** a fox. ▪ The escaped prisoner ran through the park with the police ***in full pursuit*** [=ran through the park while being chased/pursued by the police] ▪ A car raced past us with the police ***in hot/close pursuit*** [=following very closely behind] **b** : an attempt to find, achieve, or get something — + *of* ▪ the *pursuit of* excellence/knowledge ▪ the *pursuit of* happiness ▪ the *pursuit of* a college degree ▪ He would do anything ***in pursuit of*** wealth and fame. [=he would do anything to achieve wealth and fame]
2 [*count*] : an activity that is done for pleasure ▪ She enjoys reading, knitting, and other quiet *pursuits*.

pu•ru•lent /ˈpjʊrələnt/ *adj, medical* : containing or producing pus ▪ a *purulent* wound/discharge
– **pu•ru•lence** /ˈpjʊrələns/ *noun* [*noncount*]

pur•vey /pəˈveɪ/ *verb* **-veys**; **-veyed**; **-vey•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to make (something, such a product) available : to supply or provide (something) for use ▪ a shop *purveying* handmade merchandise ▪ *purvey* information

pur•vey•or /pəˈveɪjə/ *noun, pl* **-ors** [*count*] *formal* : a person or business that sells or provides something ▪ a *purveyor* of kitchen supplies ▪ a software *purveyor*

pur•view /ˈpəˌvju:/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : an area within which someone or something has authority, influence, or knowledge ▪ The case is within the court's *purview*. ▪ That question is outside/beyond my *purview*. ▪ The moral dilemmas of the early settlers are beyond the *purview* of this book.

pus /ˈpʌs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a thick, yellowish substance that is produced when a part of the body or a wound becomes infected ▪ *Pus* oozed from the cat's injured ear.

[1]push /ˈpʊʃ/ *verb* **push•es**; **pushed**; **push•ing**
1 : to use force to move (someone or something) forward or away from you [+ *obj*] Please stop *pushing* me. ▪ Do you want to *push* the shopping cart? ▪ *Push* [=*press*] the button to turn on the computer. ▪ He slowly *pushed* the door open. ▪ She *pushed* back her chair and stood up. ▪ She *pushed* him aside and marched into the boss's office. ▪ He *pushed* her out of the way. ▪ He *pushed* me into the table. ▪ He was *pushed* off the sidewalk into the street. ▪ She *pushed* her wet hair back/away from her face. ▪ The bulldozer *pushed* the rubble over the edge of the pit. — often used figuratively ▪ Larger companies are *pushing* [=*forcing*] smaller ones into bankruptcy. ▪ Poverty *pushed* them to the breaking point. ▪ He ***pushed aside*** [=*put aside*] his fear of rejection and asked her out on a date. ▪ She ***pushed*** her doubts ***to the back of her mind*** = She ***pushed*** her doubts ***out of her mind*** [=she tried not to think about her doubts] [*no obj*] No matter how hard I *pushed*, I couldn't move the boulder. ▪ He *pushed* and pulled to loosen the post from the ground. ▪ She *pushed* against the door, but it wouldn't open.
2 : to go forward while using your hands, arms etc., to forcefully move people or things that are blocking you [*no obj*] Quit (your) ***pushing and shoving*** Can't you see there are a lot of people ahead of you in line? — often + *through* ▪ The paramedics *pushed through* the crowd. [+ *obj*] They ***pushed their way*** to the front row.
3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to force or try to force or persuade (someone) to do something ▪ He *pushed* his son to play football. ▪ He *pushed* them to accept his plan. ▪ She *pushed* him into trying out for the team. **b** : to force (someone) to work hard at something in order to achieve success ▪ The coach tends to *push* his players too hard. ▪ Her teachers *pushed* her to succeed. ▪ She was tired but she ***pushed herself*** to keep working. **c** : to do or say things that cause trouble for (someone) ▪ He kept *pushing* his parents until they had no choice but to punish him. ▪ If you *push* him too far, you'll regret it.
4 [*no obj*] **a** *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to continue moving forward in a forceful or steady way ▪ The explorers *pushed* (along) deep into the jungle. — usually + *ahead, forward*, or *on* ▪ The army *pushed* [=*pressed*] *on* in spite of the snow. ▪ They were tired, but they kept *pushing ahead*. **b** : to continue to do something especially in a determined way ▪ If we want to succeed, we have to keep *pushing*. — usually + *ahead, forward*, or *on* ▪ The city *pushed* [=*pressed*] *ahead/forward* with its plans to build a casino. ▪ They *pushed on* with their plans.
5 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [+ *obj*] : to force (someone or something) to move away from a place ▪ The troops *pushed* the enemy from the city. ▪ Settlers *pushed* the native people off their land.
6 [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to be accepted, completed, etc., by making a special effort ▪ The senators are trying to *push* the bill through Congress. ▪ All of the editorial staff helped to *push* the project to completion.
7 [*no obj*] : to make a strong, continuous effort to get or do something — often + *for* ▪ The workers are *pushing* hard *for* higher wages. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ Town residents are *pushing to prevent* the shopping mall from being built.
8 [+ *obj*] **a** : to make a strong effort to sell (something) ▪ We're *pushing* last year's models to make room for this year's. **b** : to try to make (something) more popular, well-known, etc., by talking about it ▪ He went on the talk show to *push* [=*promote*] his new film. **c** : to repeat (something) in order to show that it is important ▪ They kept *pushing* [=*pressing*] the issue. ▪ We need to get them to do something, but we don't want to ***push the point*** too much.
9 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to sell (illegal drugs) ▪ He was arrested for *pushing* drugs.
10 [+ *obj*] **a** : to go up to and often beyond (a limit) ▪ His humor *pushes* the limits of bad taste. ▪ She is always *pushing* her body's limits with new physical challenges. **b** *informal* : to get close to (an age or number) — always used as *(be) pushing* ▪ She must *be pushing* 80. [=she must be almost 80 years old] ▪ The game was played in front of a crowd *pushing* 50,000. [=a crowd of almost 50,000 people]
11 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [+ *obj*] : to cause or force (something) to change in a specified way ▪ The cost of oil has *pushed* gas prices higher/up. [=has raised gas prices] ▪ Stock prices have been *pushed* down. [=have been lowered] ▪ Gas prices have been *pushed* [=*raised*] to record levels.
12 [+ *obj*] *sports* : to hit (a ball) toward the right from a right-handed swing or toward the left from a left-handed swing ▪ (*golf*) She *pushed* her drive into the rough. — compare PULL
be pushing up daisies see DAISY
push around *also Brit* ***push about*** [*phrasal verb*] ***push (someone) around/about*** : to try to force (someone) to do what you want by making threats, using force, etc. ▪ Don't let the bigger boys *push* you *around*—stand up for yourself!
push back [*phrasal verb*] ***push back (something) or push (something) back*** : to change (a planned event) to start at a later date or time ▪ The date of the meeting has been *pushed back* from Tuesday to Thursday. ▪ The start time of the game has been *pushed back* from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
push in [*phrasal verb*] *Brit* : to move in front of other people who are waiting in a line ▪ He *pushed in* at the head of the queue. [=(*US*) he cut in at the head of the line]
push it/things *informal* : to continue to do or to try to do something when you should stop ▪ If your mom already said "no" two times, don't *push it*. [=don't keep asking her] You'll just make her mad. ▪ You've won a lot of money, but don't *push it* [=don't push your luck] or you could lose it all. ▪ She *pushed things* too far and lost all her winnings.
push off [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to move from a place or position by pushing against a surface with something ▪ She *pushed off* (from shore) with her oar and started paddling. ▪ His ankle injury prevented him from *pushing off* with his left foot when he was skating. **2** *Brit, informal* : to go away : LEAVE — used in speech as a rude or angry way of telling someone to go away ▪ *Push off* [=*get lost*], mate.
push on [*phrasal verb*] ***push (something) on (someone)*** : to force (someone) to accept (something) ▪ He's always trying to *push* his political beliefs *on* other people. — see also [1]PUSH 4 (above)
push over [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***push over (someone or something) or push (someone or something) over*** : to make (someone or something) fall to the ground by pushing ▪ He *pushed* the smaller child *over*. ▪ She *pushed over* the statue. **2** *US, informal* : to move so that there is room for someone else to sit or stand next to you ▪ *Push over* [=*shove over*] so that I can sit down, too.
push paper(s) see [1]PAPER
push the envelope see ENVELOPE
push your luck see [1]LUCK

[2]push *noun, pl* **pushes** [*count*]
1 : an act of pushing something or someone — usually singular ▪ He gave me a *push*. [=he pushed me] ▪ Give the door a *push* to open it. ▪ The computer starts with the ***push of a but-***

ton. ▪ At the *push of a button*, you can change a color photo into a black-and-white one.

2 : a large, organized military attack — usually singular ▪ They're making a final *push* against enemy forces. ▪ The army has launched a *push* toward the capital. — often used figuratively ▪ The company is making a *push* into foreign markets. [=the company is entering foreign markets]

3 : a strong, continuous effort to get or achieve something — usually singular ▪ Despite a multimillion dollar marketing *push*, the movie flopped. — often + *for* ▪ Workers are making a determined *push for* higher wages. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ a *push to improve* public schools

at a push *Brit, informal* : with some difficulty : by making a special effort ▪ We can fit five people in the car, six *at a push*.

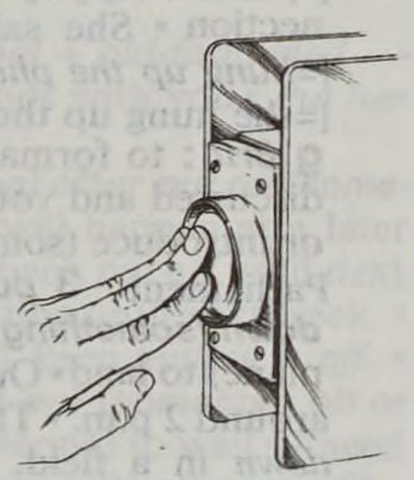
get the push *Brit, informal* : to lose your job : to be fired from your job ▪ The employees with less experience *got the push*. [=were fired; *got the ax*]

give (someone) the push *Brit, informal* : to dismiss (someone) from a job : to fire (someone) ▪ His boss *gave him the push*. [=*gave him the ax*]

push comes to shove *informal* — used to describe what happens when a situation becomes very serious or difficult and action needs to be taken ▪ He backed down ***when push came to shove***. ▪ He'll surrender ***if push comes to shove***.

push–bike /ˈpʊʃˌbaɪk/ *noun, pl* **-bikes** [*count*] *Brit, old-fashioned* : BICYCLE

push button *noun, pl* ~ **-tons** [*count*] : a small button or knob that is pushed to operate a machine
– **push–button** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *push-button* phone



push button

push·cart /ˈpʊʃˌkɑɚt/ *noun, pl* **-carts** [*count*] *US* : a cart that is pushed by a person — used especially to describe a cart that is used for selling something outdoors ▪ selling fruits and vegetables from a *pushcart*

push·chair /ˈpʊʃˌʧeɚ/ *noun, pl* **-chairs** [*count*] *Brit* : STROLLER 1

pushed *adj, not used before a noun, Brit, informal*

1 — used to say that it is difficult to do something ▪ You'd be (hard) *pushed* [=*hard-pressed*] to find a better place to spend your holiday.

2 : lacking something that is needed or desired : PRESSED — usually + *for* ▪ I am really *pushed for* time/money right now.

3 : busy or active ▪ We've been a bit *pushed* lately.

push·er /ˈpʊʃɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : someone who sells illegal drugs ▪ junkies and *pushers* ▪ a drug *pusher* — see also PAPER PUSHER, PEN PUSHER

push·over /ˈpʊʃˌoʊvɚ/ *noun, pl* **-overs** [*count*] *informal*

1 : an opponent that is easy to defeat ▪ They thought the first team they played would be a *pushover*.

2 : something that is easy to do ▪ The exam was a *pushover*.

3 : someone who is easy to persuade or influence ▪ Dad's a *pushover*. He'll let me do anything I want.

4 : someone who is unable to resist the attraction or appeal of something : SUCKER — usually + *for* ▪ I'm a *pushover for* guys with big muscles. ▪ He's a *pushover for* kung fu movies.

push·pin /ˈpʊʃˌpɪn/ *noun, pl* **-pins** [*count*] *US* : a short pin that has a large head and that is used to attach things (such as papers or photographs) to a wall or bulletin board — see picture at OFFICE; compare THUMBTACK

push–up /ˈpʊʃˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*] *chiefly US* : an exercise in which you lay on your stomach and raise and lower your body by straightening and bending your arms — called also (*Brit*) *press-up*

pushy /ˈpʊʃi/ *adj* **push·i·er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving* : using forceful methods to make others do what you want them to do : aggressive and rude ▪ a *pushy* salesperson
– **push·i·ness** /ˈpʊʃinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

pu·sil·lan·i·mous /ˌpjuːsəˈlænəməs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : weak and afraid of danger : COWARDLY ▪ a *pusillanimous* leader

[1]puss /ˈpʊs/ *noun, pl* **puss·es** [*count*] *informal* : FACE ▪ I felt like smacking him right in the *puss*. [=like punching him right in the face] — see also SOURPUSS — compare [2]PUSS

[2]puss *noun* [*singular*] *Brit, informal* : a cat or kitten ▪ Come here, *puss*. [=(*US*) *kitty*] — compare [1]PUSS

[1]pussy /ˈpʊsi/ *noun, pl* **puss·ies** [*count*] *informal* : a cat or kitten : PUSSYCAT — used especially by children or when talking to children — compare [2]PUSSY, [3]PUSSY

[2]pus·sy /ˈpʊsi/ *noun, pl* **pus·sies** [*count*] *informal + offensive* : a woman's sex organs; *also* : sexual intercourse with a woman ✧ These uses of *pussy* are very offensive and should be avoided. — compare [1]PUSSY, [3]PUSSY

[3]pus·sy /ˈpʊsi/ *noun, pl* **pus·sies** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal + impolite* : a weak and cowardly man : SISSY ▪ He got into a fight when someone called him a *pussy*. — compare [1]PUSSY, [2]PUSSY

pussy·cat /ˈpʊsiˌkæt/ *noun, pl* **-cats** [*count*] *informal*

1 : a cat or kitten — used especially by children or when talking to children ▪ Look at the cute little *pussycat*!

2 : a person who has a kind and gentle nature ▪ He looks tough, but he's really a *pussycat*.

pussy·foot /ˈpʊsiˌfʊt/ *verb* **-foots**; **-foot·ed**; **-foot·ing** [*no obj*] *informal + disapproving* : to avoid making a definite decision or stating a definite opinion because of fear, doubt, etc. ▪ He should stop *pussyfooting* and tell us what he wants to do. — often + *around* ▪ He's been *pussyfooting around* for months because he's afraid of offending anyone.

pussy willow *noun, pl* ~ **-lows** [*count*] : a small tree with large, soft flowers; *also* : the flower of this tree

pus·tule /ˈpʌsˌʧuːl/ *noun, pl* **-tules** [*count*] *medical* : a small bump on the skin that contains or produces pus

[1]put /ˈpʊt/ *verb* **puts**; **put**; **put·ting** [+ *obj*]

1 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* **a** : to cause (someone or something) to be in a particular place or position ▪ She *put* [=*placed, set*] the plant near the window. ▪ *Put* the car in the garage. ▪ I *put* the keys on the table. ▪ He *put* his arms around her and held her tight. **b** : to cause (something) to go into or through something in a forceful way ▪ He fell and accidentally *put* his hand through a window. **c** : to cause (someone) to be in a particular place or send (someone) to a particular place ▪ The illness *put* her in the hospital for three days. ▪ They *put* her in prison for forgery. ▪ Her parents decided to *put* her in a special school for deaf children. ▪ If she drove 55 mph for 20 minutes, that would *put* her about halfway there by now. **d** : to show that (someone or something) is in a particular place ▪ The evidence/report *puts* the defendant at the scene of the crime. [=it shows that the defendant was at the scene of the crime]

2 : to write (something) with a pen or pencil in or on something ▪ Don't forget to *put* your signature on the check. ▪ He *put* his phone number on a napkin. ▪ *Put* a circle around the correct answer. ▪ I wrote that the answer was option B. What did you *put*? ▪ She had always dreamed of writing a novel, but she never actually ***put pen to paper***. [=started writing]

3 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to cause (someone or something) to be in a particular state or condition ▪ Not exercising *puts* you at greater risk of developing heart disease. ▪ *Put* the TV on channel 5, please. ▪ Who *put* you in charge/command/control? ▪ I told her some jokes to *put* her in/into a good mood. ▪ His careless spending *put* him in/into debt. ▪ Their actions have *put* them in serious danger. ▪ Her reassuring words ***put us at ease***. [=made us feel calm and relaxed] ▪ ***Put*** that idea ***out of your mind***. [=stop thinking about that idea] ▪ They said they shot the injured horse to ***put*** it ***out of its misery***. [=so that it would not continue to suffer] ▪ They have ***put*** their competitors ***out of business***. ▪ The new technology could ***put him out of a job***. = It could ***put him out of work***. [=it could make him lose his job] ▪ He's ***putting*** the children ***to bed***. [=helping them get into their beds]

4 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* **a** : to cause (someone or something) to do work or perform a task — often + *to* ▪ She *put* the kids *to* work cleaning the basement. **b** : to use (something) ▪ They are ready to *put* the plan in action/motion. ▪ *putting* an idea into action/effect/practice ▪ The new weapon was immediately ***put to use*** by the military. ▪ I don't need this camera, but maybe you can ***put it to good use***.

5 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to cause (something) to have an effect on someone or something — usually + *on* ▪ He *puts* [=*places*] great emphasis *on* the need for new leadership. [=he strongly emphasizes the need for new leadership] ▪ She has been *putting* pressure *on* us to finish the project early. ▪ Another child would *put* a heavy strain *on* their finances. [=would strain their finances very much] ▪ A special tax/duty/surcharge was *put on* luxury items. ▪ They want to *put* a limit *on* government spending.

6 : to say or express (something) ▪ As she *put* it, "You can't please everyone." ▪ How should I *put* this? I don't think you're cut out for this job. ▪ Well *put*! ▪ Let me *put* it another

P

way. ▪ I think you're incompetent, ***to put it bluntly.*** ▪ It was a difficult experience, ***to put it mildly.*** [=it was a very difficult experience] ▪ She finds it hard to ***put her feelings into words*** [=to say what her feelings are]

7 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* **a :** to ask (a question) or make (a suggestion) to someone ▪ Let me *put* this question to you [=let me ask you this question]: what do we do now? ▪ I *put* my plan/proposal before the board of directors for consideration. **b :** to ask a group of people to formally vote on (something) ▪ They plan on *putting* the motion/resolution to a/the vote this afternoon.

8 : to add music to (words) ▪ She writes the lyrics and he *puts* [=*sets*] them to music.

9 *sports* **:** to throw (a shot put)

I wouldn't put it past (someone) see ²PAST

put about [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***put (something) about or put about (something)*** *Brit* **:** to tell many people about (something) ▪ They *put about* the news that he was resigning. = They *put* it *about* that he was resigning. **2 a** *of a boat or ship* **:** to change direction ▪ The ship *put about* and sailed back out to sea. **b** ***put (something) about*** **:** to cause (a boat or ship) to change direction ▪ a boat that can be *put about* quickly

put across [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***put (something) across or put across (something)*** **:** to cause (something) to be clearly understood **:** to get (something) across ▪ She has had trouble *putting* her message *across* to voters. **2** ***put (yourself) across as (something)*** **:** to cause (yourself) to appear to be (a particular type of person) ▪ He tries to *put himself across as* [=to make other people believe that he is] a nice guy.

put a foot wrong see ¹FOOT

put aside [*phrasal verb*] ***put (something) aside or put aside (something)*** **1 :** to save or keep (something, such as money) to be used at a later time ▪ She's been *putting aside* some money for a vacation. ▪ Can you *put* a few minutes *aside* for a short meeting? **2 :** to stop worrying or thinking about (something) ▪ We need to *put* these problems *aside* for now and get the work done. ▪ It's time to *put aside* our differences and start working together.

put at [*phrasal verb*] ***put (something) at (something)*** **:** to guess or estimate (something) to be (something) ▪ The coroner *put* his time of death *at* 7:00. [=the coroner estimated that the time of his death was 7:00] ▪ Recent estimates *put* the number of unreported cases *at* 2,000 each year.

put away [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***put (something) away or put away (something)*** **a :** to return (something) to the place where it belongs ▪ He washed, dried, and *put away* the dishes after dinner. ▪ She *put* the pictures *away* for safekeeping. ▪ *Put* your notes *away*. It's time for the test. **b :** to save or keep (something, such as money) to be used at a later time ▪ Her parents started *putting away* money for her education the year she was born. **c** *informal* **:** to eat (a large amount of food) ▪ I used to *put away* huge meals before I went on a diet. ▪ That guy can really ***put it away.*** **2** ***put (someone) away or put away (someone)*** *informal* **:** to cause (someone) to be kept in a prison or mental hospital ▪ He's a vicious criminal. I hope they *put* him *away* for the rest of his life.

put back [*phrasal verb*] ***put (something) back or put back (something)*** **1 :** to return (something) to the place where it belongs ▪ Remember to *put* the vacuum cleaner *back* in the closet after you've used it. ▪ The books had been *put back* neatly on the shelf. **2** *Brit* **:** to change (a planned event) to start at a later date or time ▪ They *put back* [=*pushed back, postponed*] the game until next week. ▪ The meeting has been *put back* from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

put before [*phrasal verb*] ***put (something) before (someone or something)*** **:** to ask (a person or group) to make a decision about (something) ▪ The problem of downtown parking was *put before* the mayor/council. ▪ We should *put* this question *before* the voters.

put behind [*phrasal verb*] ***put (something) behind you*** **:** to stop worrying about or being upset by (something that happened in the past) ▪ It was a disappointing loss, but we need to *put it behind us* and focus on winning the next game. ▪ *Put* the past *behind you*.

put by [*phrasal verb*] ***put (something) by or put by (something)*** *chiefly Brit* **:** to save (money) for a later time ▪ She has *put* some money *by* [=*put aside*] for emergencies.

put down [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***put (someone or something) down*** *also* ***put down (someone or something)*** **a :** to place (someone or something that you have been holding or carrying) on a table, on the floor, etc. ▪ She carefully *put* the vase *down* on the table. ▪ The police ordered him to *put down* the gun. ▪ I don't need you to carry me. *Put* me *down*! **b :** to add (someone or something) to a list ▪ Don't forget to *put down* milk and bread on the shopping list. **c** *informal* **:** to say critical or insulting things about (someone or something) ▪ He frequently *puts down* her work. ▪ Her parents are always *putting* her *down*. ▪ He ***puts himself down*** a lot, but he's really quite an attractive man. — see also PUT-DOWN **2** ***put (something) down or put down (something)*** **a :** to write (something) **:** to record (something) in writing ▪ She says that the reporter *put* her quote *down* incorrectly. ▪ Every night, he *puts* his thoughts *down* in a journal. ▪ I need to *put down* my thoughts on paper before I forget them. ▪ What answer did you *put down* on the test? **b :** to give (an amount of money) as a first payment when you are buying something that costs a lot of money ▪ We *put* 10 percent *down* on the house. = We *put down* a 10 percent deposit on the house. ▪ *Put* no money *down* and pay no interest on the car until next year. **c :** to put (something) in place on the floor or ground ▪ *Putting down* [=*installing*] a new hardwood floor would greatly increase the value of your home. ▪ We *put down* a layer of mulch in the rose garden. **d :** to stop (a violent or dangerous activity) by using force ▪ Federal troops were brought in to help *put down* the riot. ▪ *put down* a rebellion/revolt/uprising **e :** to kill (an animal) in a way that causes it little pain usually because it is injured or sick ▪ They had to have their dog *put down* [=*put to sleep*] by the vet. **f** *Brit* **:** to end a telephone connection ▪ She said goodbye and ***put down the phone*** [=*hung up the phone*] ▪ She ***put the phone down on him*** [=she hung up the phone while he was still talking to her] **g** *Brit* **:** to formally suggest (something) as an idea to be discussed and voted on by a group of people **:** to propose or introduce (something) ▪ *putting down* an amendment in Parliament **3** ***put down or put (something) down or put down (something)*** *chiefly Brit* **:** to land or to cause (an airplane) to land ▪ Our plane *put down* [=*landed*] in New York around 2 p.m. ▪ The pilot was forced to *put* [=*set*] the plane *down* in a field. **4** ***put (someone) down or put down (someone)*** **:** to place (a baby or child) in a bed to sleep ▪ He *put* the baby *down* (in her crib) for a nap. **5** ***put (someone) down as (something)*** **:** to think of (someone) as (a specified kind of person or thing) ▪ Most people *put* him *down as* [=believe that he is] a fanatic. **6** ***put (someone) down for (something)*** **:** to write the name of (someone) on a list of people who will do or give (something) ▪ Can I *put you down for* a donation? [=can I write that you will give a donation?] ▪ Sure, *put me down for* $20. **7** ***put (something) down to (something)*** **:** to say or think that (something) happened because of (something) ▪ Let's *put* the mistake *down to* your inexperience and forget about it. ▪ The mistake was *put down to* [=*attributed to*] his inexperience.

put forth [*phrasal verb*] ***put forth (something) or put (something) forth*** *somewhat formal* **1 :** to suggest (an idea, plan, etc.) for people to think about or consider ▪ The same argument has been *put forth* by many people in the opposition. ▪ I would like to *put forth* some alternatives. ▪ *putting forth* a plan/proposal/theory **2 :** to use (something, such as energy) for a particular purpose ▪ She *put forth* all her energy to win the race. ▪ They *put forth* a good effort. **3** *of a plant* **:** to produce or send out (something) by growing ▪ The trees are starting to *put forth* new leaves.

put forward [*phrasal verb*] ***put (something) forward or put forward (something)*** *somewhat formal* **:** to suggest (something) for consideration **:** PROPOSE ▪ He *put forward* [=*put forth*] a theory about how the accident may have occurred.

put in [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***put (something) in or put in (something)*** **a :** to make (something) ready to be used in a certain place **:** INSTALL ▪ We *put in* new cabinets just last year. ▪ In order to fix the car they have to *put in* a new engine. **b :** to add (a comment) to a conversation or argument ▪ She *put* a quick comment *in* about her busy schedule. ▪ I'd like to *put in* a few words on his behalf. [=to say something that supports him] ▪ Would you mind ***putting in a good word for*** me? [=would you say something good about me?] ▪ You will each have a chance to ***put in your two cents*** [=to express your opinion] **c :** to make an official statement, offer, or request ▪ She *put in* a plea of not guilty. [=she pleaded not guilty] ▪ I need to *put in* [=*make, submit*] a report about this. ▪ You have two weeks to *put in* [=*submit*] a claim with the insurance company. ▪ They are *putting in* [=*making*] a $300,000 offer for the house. ▪ I'd like to *put in* [=*place*] an order for a dozen roses. ▪ Contractors have begun *putting in* bids for the job. **d :** to perform (a particu-

lar action) ▪ They *put in* an amazing performance last night. ▪ The prime minister ***put in a call to*** [=*called*] the White House. ▪ I won't be able to stay at the party long, but I'll at least try to ***put in an appearance*** [=to go to the party for a short time] **e :** to work or do something for (an amount of time) ▪ She *put in* 10 hours at the office yesterday. ▪ She *put in* a long day at work. ▪ He has *put in* his time (in jail), and now he is a free man. **2 *put in (something)* or *put (something) in (something)* :** to use (a certain amount of energy or effort) when doing something ▪ If we *put in* a little more effort, we could finish by this afternoon. ▪ He *puts* a lot of energy *in* his performances. **3 *put (something) in (something)* a :** to invest (money) into (something) ▪ She *put* her money *in* stocks and bonds. **b** — used to say what causes you to have faith, confidence, etc. ▪ He *puts* his faith *in* reason/science. ▪ *putting* her trust *in* God **4 *put in for (something)* :** to ask for (something) in an official way : to formally request (something) ▪ He *put in for* a leave of absence. ▪ *putting in for* a promotion **5** *of a boat or ship* **:** to enter a harbor or port ▪ The ship *put in* at Sydney.

put into [*phrasal verb*] ***put (something) into (something)* 1 :** to use (a certain amount of energy or effort) when doing (something) ▪ He *puts* a lot of energy *into* his performances. ▪ She ***put her heart into*** (writing) the letter. [=she expressed her feelings in a very open and honest way] **2 :** to invest (time, money, etc.) in (something) ▪ They *put* their entire life savings *into* the company. ▪ We *put* a lot of money *into* (fixing up) that house.

put it there *or* ***put her there*** *informal + old-fashioned* — used to invite someone to shake hands with you ▪ *Put her there*, pal!

put off [*phrasal verb*] **1 *put (something) off or put off (something)* :** to decide that (something) will happen at a later time : POSTPONE ▪ The meeting has been *put off* until next week. = We *put off* (holding) the meeting until next week. ▪ I've been meaning to call him, but I keep *putting* it *off*. ▪ I've been *putting off* calling him. **2 *put (someone) off or put off (someone)* a :** to cause (someone) to wait ▪ I need to come up with an excuse to *put off* the bill collector. ▪ She finally called him after *putting* him *off* all week. **b :** to cause (someone) to dislike someone or something ▪ Don't let the restaurant's dingy appearance *put* you *off*—their food is great. ▪ I was *put off* by his rudeness. ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) His rudeness ***put me off him*** [=made me dislike him] at once. — see also OFF-PUTTING **c** *Brit* **:** to allow (someone) to get off a bus or other vehicle ▪ Could you *put* [=*let*] me *off* (the bus) at the next stop, please?

put on [*phrasal verb*] **1 *put (something) on or put on (something)* a :** to dress yourself in (clothing) ▪ She *put on* her new dress. ▪ *Put on* a hat and gloves. ▪ I'll *put* some clothes *on* and be right there. **b :** to apply (something) to your face or body ▪ *putting on* lipstick/mascara/lotion ▪ She *puts on* far too much makeup. ▪ We tried to ***put on a happy/brave face*** [=we tried to appear happy/brave] despite our concern. **c :** to add to or increase the amount of (something) ▪ The fire was getting low and we needed to *put on* more wood. ▪ She *put on* [=*gained*] 40 pounds during her pregnancy. ▪ He's *put on* some weight recently. **d :** to cause (a machine, a light, etc.) to begin to work ▪ Would you mind if I *put* [=*turned*] the TV *on*? ▪ Somebody *put on* the lights. **e :** to cause (something) to begin to be heard, seen, produced, etc. ▪ *put on* a record/CD/album ▪ *putting on* some music ▪ We *put on* the air-conditioning/heat in the car. **f :** to start cooking or making (something) ▪ Let me know when to *put on* the rice. ▪ He *put on* a pot of coffee for his guests. **g :** to produce (something that entertains people, such as a play, a party, etc.) ▪ They're *putting on* a concert. ▪ He always *puts on* a great show/performance. ▪ The town *puts on* a fireworks display every Independence Day. ▪ We are *putting on* a barbecue for everyone in the neighborhood. **2 *put (something) on (someone or something)* a :** to say that (someone or something) is responsible for or guilty of (something) ▪ Responsibility for the accident was *put on* the other driver. ▪ He *puts* much of the blame for his problems *on* the government. **b :** to bet (an amount of money) on (someone or something) ▪ We *put* $2 *on* the favorite to win. ▪ *putting* money *on* horse races **3 *put (someone or something) on (something)* :** to add (someone or something) to (a list or group of related things) ▪ She asked to have her name *put on* the list of candidates. ▪ They *put* her *on* the list. ▪ We *put* several new dishes *on* the menu. ▪ "Bartender, I'll have another beer." "Okay, I'll *put* it *on* your bill." **4 *put (someone) on or put on (someone)*** *chiefly US, informal* **:** to say things that are not true to (someone) in a joking way **:** to trick or fool (someone) for amusement ▪ He said he knew the President, but I think he was just *putting me on*. [=(*Brit*) *having me on*] — see also ²PUT-ON **5** — used to say that you would like to speak to someone on the phone ▪ Hi Dad. Could you *put* Mom *on*? [=could you give Mom the phone so that I can speak to her?] ▪ *Put* Dave *on* the phone, please. **6 *put (someone) on (something)* :** to tell (someone) to use or do (something) ▪ Her doctor *put* her *on* medication. [=her doctor prescribed medication for her] ▪ He decided to *put* himself *on* a diet. [=to go on a diet] **7 *put (someone) on to (something)* :** to give (someone) information about (something) **:** to tell (someone) about (something that he or she did not know about before) ▪ A friend of mine *put* me *on to* this book in high school.

put out [*phrasal verb*] **1 *put (something) out or put out (something)* a :** to cause (something) to stop burning : EXTINGUISH ▪ She *put* the fire *out* by pouring water on it. ▪ She *put out* her cigarette in an ashtray. **b :** to stop (something) from working ▪ Who *put out* [=*turned off*] the lights? **c :** to take (something) outside and leave it there ▪ I *put* the dog *out* in the backyard before leaving the house. ▪ *putting* horses *out* to graze ▪ (*US*) Don't forget to *put out* the trash/garbage. = (*Brit*) Don't forget to *put out* the rubbish. **d :** to extend (something) outward ▪ I *put out* my hand and he shook it eagerly. ▪ She *put out* her arm for them to stop. **e :** to place (something) where people may use it ▪ He always *put out* a bowl of candy for the grandchildren. ▪ We should *put out* a few extra chairs in case more people arrive. **f :** to produce (something) ▪ This small radiator *puts out* a surprising amount of heat. ▪ They will have to *put out* considerable effort to meet the deadline. ▪ It was early spring, and the trees were just starting to *put out* their leaves. **g :** to make (something) available to be bought, used, etc. ▪ She plans to *put out* a new album in March. ▪ They need to be *putting out* cars that get better gas mileage. ▪ The information was given in a pamphlet *put out* by the university's health department. ▪ Researchers recently *put out* a report/study on the issue. ▪ The police have *put out* [=*issued*] a warrant for his arrest. ▪ Someone ***put the word out*** [=started telling people] that the police were looking for her. **2 *put (someone) out or put out (someone)* a :** to annoy or bother (someone) ▪ All the attention didn't seem to *put* her *out* at all. ▪ I'm a little *put out* that no one called to tell me they would be late. **b :** to cause (someone) to do extra work **:** to cause trouble for (someone) ▪ I hope my visit didn't *put* you *out*. [=didn't inconvenience you] ▪ Please don't *put* yourself *out* just for us. **c :** to make (someone) unconscious ▪ The anesthesia *put* him *out* for a little over three hours. **d** *sports* **:** to cause (someone) to be out in baseball or cricket ▪ The runner was *put out* at second base. — see also PUTOUT **3** *chiefly US, informal + impolite* **:** to have sex with someone ▪ Did she *put out* last night? **4** *of a boat or ship* **:** to leave a harbor or port ▪ The ship *put out* to sea.

put over [*phrasal verb*] **1 *put (something) over or put over (something)* :** to cause (something) to be clearly understood **:** to put (something) across ▪ He *puts over* very complicated concepts in a way that his students can understand. **2 *put (yourself) over as (something)* :** to cause (yourself) to appear to be (a particular type of person) ▪ She *puts herself over as* [=makes other people believe that she is] a modern, independent woman. **3 *put (something) over on (someone)* :** to lie about (something) to (someone) **:** to trick or deceive someone ▪ Don't try to *put* anything *over on* her. She'll see right through you.

put paid to see ²PAID

put (someone) in mind of see ¹MIND

put through [*phrasal verb*] **1 *put (something) through or put through (something)* :** to cause (something) to be accepted or done successfully ▪ They *put through* a number of reforms. ▪ tax cuts that were *put through* by former administrations ▪ I asked Human Resources to help me *put through* [=to help me get] a transfer to a different department. **2 *put (someone) through (something)* :** to pay for (someone) to attend (school) ▪ She has a full-time job and is *putting* herself *through* college. **3 *put (someone or something) through (something)* :** to cause (someone or something) to experience (something) ▪ His doctor *put* him *through* a series of tests. ▪ She *put* her parents *through* a lot when she was a teenager. ▪ You've been *put through* quite an ordeal. ▪ I've been *put through* hell! ▪ We *put* that truck

P

through a lot when we owned it. ▪ The new software still needs to be ***put through its paces*** [=it still needs to be tested] before it can be made available to the public. **4** ***put (someone or something) through*** *or* ***put through (someone or something)*** **a** : to cause a phone call from (someone) to be sent to another person's phone ▪ Please hold while I *put* you *through* (to the manager). **b** : to cause (a phone call) to be sent to another person's phone ▪ Please hold while I *put* your call *through* (to the manager).

put to death see DEATH

put together [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***put (something) together*** *or* ***put together (something)*** **a** : to create (something) by joining or gathering parts together ▪ You'll need a screwdriver to *put* the toy *together*. ▪ They *put* their first band *together* when they were in high school. ▪ Help me *put together* a list of what we need at the store. ▪ She *put* a proposal *together* to give to the committee for consideration. ▪ Her outfit was very well *put together*. [=the parts looked good together] **b** — used to say that someone or something is greater than the total of all the other people or things mentioned ▪ You're smarter than all of those other guys *put together*. **2** ***put (something) together with (something)*** : to add or combine (something) with (something) ▪ I never would have thought of *putting* this wine together *with* fish. ▪ The lack of rain *put together with* [=along with, combined with] the heat ruined many of the region's crops.

put up [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***put (something) up*** *or* ***put up (something)*** **a** : to place (something) in a higher position ▪ They *put up* the flag in the morning and take it down at night. ▪ Sit down. *Put* your feet *up* and relax. ▪ If you have a question, please *put up* [=*raise*] your hand. ▪ Stop! *Put* your hands *up* (over your head)! ▪ When she goes to work, she usually *puts* her hair *up* (in a ponytail). **b** : to cause (something) to be on a wall, to hang from a ceiling, etc. ▪ She went around town *putting up* posters for the concert. ▪ I just *put up* new curtains. **c** : to set or place (something) so that it stands up ▪ *putting up* a tent ▪ They *put up* a display of new products. ▪ They *put up* a "for sale" sign in front of their house. **d** : to build (something) ▪ They're *putting up* a new office building on Main Street. ▪ *putting up* a fence **e** : to make (something) available for people to buy or have ▪ The lamps were *put up* at auction. — often + *for* ▪ They *put* all of their possessions *up for* sale. ▪ They *put* the puppies *up for* adoption. **f** : to provide (money, property, etc.) in order to pay for something ▪ They decided not to *put up* the money for her bail. ▪ They *put up* the company's assets as collateral on the loan. **g** : to offer (something) as a prize ▪ The police have *put up* a $1,000 reward for information leading to his capture. **h** *chiefly Brit* : to increase (something) : RAISE ▪ They are likely to *put up* interest rates again this year. **i** *US* : to return (something) to the place where it belongs ▪ It's time to *put up* [=*put away*] your toys and get ready for bed. ▪ He washed, dried, and *put up* the dishes after dinner. **j** *chiefly US* : to preserve (fruits, vegetables, etc.) to be used later : CAN ▪ Their grandmother spent the afternoon *putting up* peaches. **2** ***put up (something)*** **a** : to do (something) as a way of resisting or struggling against someone or something ▪ We're not leaving without *putting up* a fight. [=without fighting] ▪ As expected, the kids *put up* a fuss when we said it was time for bed. ▪ They are likely to *put up* stiff resistance to any new proposals. **b** : to offer (something) as an argument, a suggestion, etc. ▪ She *put up* a good/solid argument in his defense. ▪ *putting up* a proposal **c** : to score (points) ▪ They *put up* 20 points in the first half. ▪ She needs to *put up* big numbers [=to score a lot of points] in today's game. **3 a** ***put (someone) up*** : to give food and shelter to (someone) : to allow or pay for (someone) to stay in someone's home, a hotel, etc., for the night ▪ Could you *put* me *up* for the night? ▪ His employers *put* him *up* at a hotel. ▪ We *put* our guests *up* in the spare bedroom. **b** *chiefly Brit* : to stay in someone's home, a hotel, etc., for the night ▪ He *put up* with a friend while he was in town. ▪ *putting up* at a hotel **4** ***put (someone) up*** *or* ***put up (someone)*** : to choose or suggest (someone) to be a candidate or competitor ▪ The party *put* her *up* (as its candidate) for governor. ▪ They *put up* their best man to compete against the champion. **5** ***put (someone) up to (something)*** : to convince (someone) to do (something stupid or foolish) ▪ His friends *put* him *up to* (playing) the prank. ▪ Who *put* you *up* to this? **6** ***put up with (something or someone)*** : to allow (someone or something unpleasant or annoying) to exist or happen : TOLERATE ▪ At this school, we will not *put up with* bad behavior. ▪ I can't *put up with* much more of this. **7** ***put up or shut up*** *informal* — used to tell someone in a somewhat rude way to start doing something or to stop talking about it ▪ You've complained long enough. It's time to *put up or shut up*.

[2]put *noun, pl* **puts** [*count*] *sports* : the act of throwing a shot put

[3]put *adj*

stay put : to stay where you are : to not move or go anywhere ▪ *Stay put* until I get back.

– see also HARD PUT

pu·ta·tive /'pju:tətɪv/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : generally believed to be something ▪ a *putative* expert ▪ the child's *putative* father [=the man who is believed to be the child's father]

– **pu·ta·tive·ly** *adv*

put–down /'pʊt,daʊn/ *noun, pl* **-downs** [*count*] : a statement that criticizes or insults someone ▪ humiliating *put-downs* — see also *put down* at [1]PUT

[1]put–on /'pʊt'ɑ:n/ *adj, always used before a noun* : not real or genuine : FAKE ▪ a *put-on* British accent — see also *put on* at [1]PUT

[2]put–on /'pʊt,ɑ:n/ *noun, pl* **-ons** [*count*] *chiefly US* : the act of saying things that are not true in a joking way ▪ He said he knew the President, but I'm sure that was just a *put-on*. [=I'm sure he was just putting me on] — see also *put on* at [1]PUT

put·out /'pʊt,aʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*] *baseball* : an action that causes a batter or runner on the opposite team to be out ▪ The shortstop fielded the grounder and threw to first base for the *putout*. — see also *put out* at [1]PUT

pu·tre·fac·tion /,pju:trə'fækʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the process or result of decaying ▪ the smell/stench of *putrefaction*

pu·tre·fy /'pju:trə,faɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy·ing** [*no obj*] *formal* : to be slowly destroyed by natural processes : to rot and become putrid ▪ *putrefying* meat/flesh ***synonyms*** see [1]DECAY

pu·trid /'pju:trəd/ *adj*

1 : decayed with usually a very bad or disgusting smell ▪ *putrid* [=*rotten*] meat ▪ a *putrid* odor/smell/stench [=a bad smell that something has when it is decaying]

2 *informal* : very ugly, bad, or unpleasant ▪ a *putrid* shade of green ▪ a *putrid* performance

putt /'pʌt/ *verb* **putts**; **putt·ed**; **putt·ing** [*no obj*] : to hit a golf ball with a special club (called a putter) so that it rolls along the ground toward the hole

– **putt** *noun, pl* **putts** [*count*] ▪ Her *putt* was a few feet short of the hole. ▪ She made/sank/holed the *putt*. [=she putted the ball and it went in the hole] ▪ She missed the *putt*. [=she putted the ball and it did not go in the hole] – **putting** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Her *putting* has improved considerably.

[1]putt·er /'pʌtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a golf club that is used to putt the ball

2 : a person who putts golf balls ▪ a golfer who's a good/bad *putter* [=a golfer who putts well/badly]

[2]put·ter /'pʌtɚ/ *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter·ing** [*no obj*] *Brit* : to make small popping sounds while moving slowly ▪ the motorboat *puttered* across the lake

putter around [*phrasal verb*] *US* : to spend time in a relaxed way doing small jobs and other things that are not very important ▪ I didn't do much last weekend. I just *puttered around*. [=(*Brit*) *pottered around/about*] ▪ He spent his vacation *puttering around* the house/garden.

– **put·ter·er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

[1]put·ting *present participle of* [1]PUT

[2]putt·ing *present participle of* PUTT

putt·ing green /'pʌtɪŋ-/ *noun, pl* ~ **greens** [*count*] *golf* : an area covered with very short grass around the hole into which the ball must be played : GREEN; *also* : a similar area that has many holes and that is used for practice

put·ty /'pʌti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a soft, sticky substance that becomes hard when it dries and that is used for holding glass in window frames or for filling small holes in wood

putty in your hands ✧ If someone is *putty in your hands*, you are able to control that person very easily. ▪ He does whatever she wants. He's *putty in her hands*.

– **putty** *verb* **put·ties**; **put·tied**; **put·ty·ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ She *puttied* the window to stop drafts.

put–up job *noun, pl* ~ **jobs** [*count*] *informal + disapproving* : something that is secretly arranged or decided at an earlier time in order to trick or deceive someone ▪ That talent contest was a *put-up job*: you never had a chance to win!

put–up•on /ˈpʊtəˌpɑːn/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling that someone is taking advantage of you or treating you unfairly ▪ I was beginning to feel rather *put-upon* by the end of their visit. ▪ a *put-upon* secretary

putz /ˈpʌts/ *noun, pl* **putz•es** [*count*] *US, informal* : a stupid or foolish person who is not well liked ▪ I can't believe what a *putz* that guy is.

[1]puz•zle /ˈpʌzəl/ *noun, pl* **puz•zles** [*count*]
1 a : a question or problem that requires thought, skill, or cleverness to be answered or solved ▪ a book of puns, riddles, and *puzzles* — see also CROSSWORD PUZZLE **b** : JIGSAW PUZZLE — often used figuratively ▪ The restaurant is trying to attract more customers, and the new menu is an important ***piece of the puzzle***. [=an important part of what is being done] ▪ Researchers are close to finding a solution, but they haven't found the final *pieces of the puzzle*.
2 : something or someone that is difficult to understand — usually singular ▪ The cause of the explosion was a *puzzle*. [=no one knew what caused the explosion] ▪ His strange behavior is a *puzzle* to his friends. [=his friends don't understand the reason for his strange behavior]

[2]puzzle *verb* **puzzles; puz•zled; puz•zling** [+ *obj*] : to confuse (someone) : to be difficult for (someone) to understand ▪ The question *puzzled* me. [=I did not know the answer to the question] ▪ The cause of the accident has *puzzled* investigators. ▪ I was *puzzled* by his behavior. [=I did not understand the reason for his behavior]
puzzle out [*phrasal verb*] ***puzzle (something) out*** *or* ***puzzle out (something)*** : to understand or find (something, such as the answer to a difficult problem) by careful thinking ▪ She *puzzled out* the meaning of the strange phrase.
puzzle over [*phrasal verb*] ***puzzle over (something)*** : to think or worry for a long time about (something) ▪ He's been *puzzling over* whether to buy a new car. ▪ We *puzzled over* the best arrangement for the furniture.

puzzled *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling or showing confusion because something is difficult to understand ▪ Investigators are *puzzled* about the cause of the accident. ▪ He had a very *puzzled* [=*confused*] look on his face.

puz•zle•ment /ˈpʌzəlmənt/ *noun, formal*
1 [*noncount*] : a feeling of being confused because something is difficult to understand ▪ The cause of the accident has been a source of *puzzlement*. ▪ The explanation only increased their *puzzlement*.
2 [*singular*] *chiefly US* : something that is difficult to understand ▪ The cause of the accident is a *puzzlement*. [=*puzzle*]

puz•zler /ˈpʌzələ/ *noun, pl* **puz•zlers** [*count*] *informal* : something that is confusing or difficult to understand — usually singular ▪ The question is a real *puzzler*.

puz•zling /ˈpʌzəlɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing or likely to cause confusion : difficult to solve or understand ▪ *puzzling* questions ▪ a *puzzling* metaphor/statement/event ▪ The directions are somewhat *puzzling*.

PVC /ˌpiːˌviːˈsiː/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of plastic used for pipes that carry water and for many other products ✧ *PVC* is an abbreviation of "polyvinyl chloride."

Pvt. *abbr, US* private ▪ *Pvt.* David Logan

PX *abbr, US* post exchange

[1]pyg•my *also* **pig•my** /ˈpɪgmi/ *noun, pl* **-mies** [*count*]
1 ***Pygmy*** : a member of a group of very small people who live in Africa
2 *disapproving* : a person who is regarded as very weak, stupid, etc. ▪ an intellectual *pygmy*

[2]pygmy *also* **pigmy** *adj, always used before a noun, biology* — used to describe a type of plant or animal that is smaller than the usual size ▪ a *pygmy* elephant

pyjamas *Brit spelling of* PAJAMAS

py•lon /ˈpaɪˌlɑːn/ *noun, pl* **-lons** [*count*]
1 a : a tall tower or similar structure ▪ The bridge is supported by concrete *pylons*. **b** : a tall, metal structure that is part of a series of structures supporting a long stretch of electrical wire ▪ a row of electricity *pylons*
2 *US* : TRAFFIC CONE
3 *American football* : one of the upright markers that are positioned at the corners of the end zone

pyr•a•mid /ˈpirəˌmɪd/ *noun, pl* **-mids** [*count*]
1 a : a very large structure built especially in ancient Egypt that has a square base and four triangular sides which form a point at the top ▪ the ancient *pyramids* of Egypt **b** : a shape, object, or pile that is wide near the bottom and narrows gradually as it reaches the top ▪ a *pyramid* of apples/oranges — see picture at GEOMETRY
2 : something that resembles a pyramid in the way its parts are arranged or organized ▪ the social *pyramid* ▪ (*US*) the ***food pyramid*** [=a drawing or chart that is shaped like a pyramid and that shows the type of food you should eat for a healthy diet]
– **py•ra•mi•dal** /pəˈræmədl̩/ *adj* ▪ a *pyramidal* structure

pyramid scheme *noun, pl* ~ **schemes** [*count*] : a dishonest and usually illegal business in which many people are persuaded to invest their money and the money of later investors is used to pay the people who invested first — called also (*US*) *Ponzi scheme*

pyre /ˈpajɚ/ *noun, pl* **pyres** [*count*] : a pile of wood for burning a dead body ▪ a funeral *pyre*

Py•rex /ˈpaɪˌrɛks/ *trademark* — used for a type of special glass that can get very hot without breaking

py•rite /ˈpaɪˌraɪt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a common mineral that is shiny and pale yellow in color

py•ro•ma•nia /ˌpaɪroʊˈmeɪnijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a mental illness that makes people have a strong desire to set fires
– **py•ro•ma•ni•ac** /ˌpaɪroʊˈmeɪniˌæk/ *noun, pl* **-acs** [*count*] ▪ The fire was set by a *pyromaniac*.

py•ro•tech•nics /ˌpaɪrəˈtɛknɪks/ *noun* [*plural*]
1 : a bright display of fireworks
2 : a very impressive show or display that requires great skill ▪ The visual *pyrotechnics* of the film are stunning. ▪ verbal/musical *pyrotechnics*

Pyr•rhic victory /ˈpirɪk-/ *noun, pl* ~ **-ries** [*count*] : a victory that is not worth winning because so much is lost to achieve it ▪ The company won the lawsuit, but it was a *Pyrrhic victory* because of all the bad publicity they received during the trial.

py•thon /ˈpaɪˌθɑːn/ *noun, pl* **-thons** [*count*] : a very large snake that kills the animals it eats by wrapping itself around them

Q

q *or* **Q** /ˈkjuː/ *noun, pl* **q's** *or* **qs** *or* **Q's** *or* **Qs** : the 17th letter of the English alphabet [*count*] The word "quart" begins with a *q*. [*noncount*] The word "quart" begins with *q*.
mind your p's and q's see [1]P

QA *abbr* quality assurance

Q and A *or* **Q & A** *noun, pl* **Q and A's** *or* **Q & A's** [*count*] : a period of time or an occasion when someone answers questions that are asked by a reporter, by the people in an audience, etc. ▪ There will be a brief *Q and A* following the speech. — often used before another noun ▪ a *Q and A* session

QB *abbr* quarterback

QC *abbr* **1** quality control **2** *Brit* Queen's Counsel

QED /ˌkjuːˌiːˈdiː/ *abbr* — used to say that something (such as a particular fact or a logical statement) proves what you were trying to prove ✧ *QED* is an abbreviation of the Latin phrase "quod erat demonstrandum," /ˌkwɑːdˈeəˌɑːtˌdɛmənˈstrændəm/ which means "which was to be demonstrated."

qt. *abbr* quart

q.t. /ˌkjuːˈtiː/
on the q.t. *or* ***on the Q.T.*** *informal* : in a secret or quiet way ▪ All the arrangements were made *on the q.t.* ▪ She told me about it *on the q.t.* ▪ This information is private, so ***keep it on the q.t.*** [=don't tell anyone about it]

Q–tips /ˈkjuːˌtɪps/ *trademark* — used for short sticks that have pieces of soft cotton at both ends